FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 79

24 April 1978

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Tunisian President's Son Conveys Message to Amir C 1 1/A6

QATAR

Oil Minister Returns to Doha From Riyadh C 1 1/A6

SAUDI ARABIA

Kuwaiti, Jordanian Ministers Arrive in Riyadh C 1 1/A6
Delegations Leave for Arab Fund Meeting C 1 1/A6
Deputy Prime Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador C 2 1/A7
Gabonese President Arrives for 3-Day Visit C 2 1/A7

YEMEN--PDRY

Prime Minister Leaves for Visit to China C 2 1/A7

YEMEN--YAR

Al-Ghashmi Ratifies Presidency Resolution C 3 1/A8
Al-Asnaj on Arab Solidarity Committee Meetings C 5 1/A10

BRIEFS

PDRY Diplomatic Appointments; PDRY-GDR Fisheries Talks C 5 1/A10

EGYPT

Atherton Resumes Consultations With Egyptians D 1 1/A11
Atherton Arrival Statement D 1 1/A11
As-Sadat Invitation Denied D 1 1/A11
Kamil To Confer With As-Sadat D 1 1/A11
As-Sadat Sees Mubarak, Kamil D 2 1/A12
Atherton Talks With Kamil D 2 1/A12
Kamil, Atherton Statements D 2 1/A12
Atherton Leaves for Al-Ghurdaqah D 2 1/A12
As-Sadat Meets With Atherton D 3 1/A13
Atherton Press Conference D 3 1/A13
Kamil Comments on Israeli Position D 5 1/B1
President As-Sadat Sends Message to President Carter D 5 1/B1
Members of Terrorist Organization Arrested D 6 1/B2
Attorney General's Statement D 6 1/B2
Fatah Splinter Group D 7 1/B3

Press Comments on Terrorism, Atherton Visit D 7 1/B3
Minister Says Communism Plotting Against Egypt D 8 1/B4
Cabinet Meets, Issues Statement on Meeting D 9 1/B5

IRAQ

Measures to Meet Arab Food Requirements Discussed E 1 1/B6
[AL-JUMHURIYAH 13 Apr 78]
PDRY Industry Minister Concludes Visit to Iraq E 2 1/B7
Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Arrives in Baghdad E 2 1/B7
Former Arab Economic Unity Council Leader Returns E 2 1/B7
Ba'th Party Official Greets Gaza Strip Delegation E 2 1/B7
Designated Arab Economic Unity Council Head Returns E 3 1/B8
Iraqi Air Force Commander Begins 5-Day Visit to Iran E 3 1/B8
Iraqi Minister Leaves for Islamic Conference in Senegal E 3 1/B8
Briefs: Senegalese Envoy Leaves; Danish Housing E 3 1/B8
Minister Departs

JORDAN

Husayn Addresses National Consultative Council F 1 1/B9
Husayn Addresses Senate on Mideast Issues F 1 1/B9
Husayn Addresses Special Forces Ceremony F 3 1/B11
Sharaf Sees New Council as Interim Step to Democracy F 3 1/B11
Press Comments on Atherton's Visit to Middle East F 6 1/B14

LEBANON

Parliamentary Committee Achieves Agreements G 1 1/C1
Further Report [Voice of Lebanon] G 1 1/C1
Speaker Al-As'ad Addresses Press Conference G 1 1/C1
Al-Huss Discusses Formation of New Cabinet G 2 1/C2
Bashir al-Jumayyil Addresses Rally in Beirut [Voice of Lebanon] G 2 1/C2
Pierre al-Jumayyil on Plot To Revive War Atmosphere [Voice of Lebanon] G 3 1/C3
AFP Reports on Palestinian-Lebanese Relations G 3 1/C3
Sham'un Rejects Further Compromise on Palestinians G 4 1/C4
[Paris LE FIGARO 20 Apr]
Voice of Lebanon Cites Reported Rift in PLO G 5 1/C5
General Siilasvuo Arrives in Beirut for Talks G 6 1/C6
Meets With Butrus G 6 1/C6
Support for Army Command Reportedly Received G 6 1/C6
Army Command Explains Future Army Policy G 6 1/C6
Voice of Lebanon Reports Palestinian Fighting G 7 1/C7
Palestinians Reportedly Shell Al-Qulay'ah [Voice of Lebanon] G 7 1/C7
Internal Security Forces Deny Rumors of Incidents G 7 1/C7

SYRIA

Al-Asad Returns Home Following Visit to India H 1 1/C8
Defense Minister Attends Military Exercise H 1 1/C8

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

U.S. Envoy Presents Message to Boumediene I 1 1/C9

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Guinean President Toure I 1 1/C9
Protocol Signed I 1 1/C9
Al-Qadhdhafi Asks FROLINAT To Stop Hostilities I 1 1/C9
Al-Qadhdhafi: Shipment for Palestinians Explodes I 1 1/C9
Sudan Official Arrives for Talks on Chad I 2 1/C10
Sao Tome and Principe Foreign Minister Arrives I 2 1/C10
Received by Foreign Minister I 2 1/C10

MOROCCO

Istiqlal Party 10th Congress Opens in Casablanca I 2 1/C10
Congress Ends I 2 1/C10

SUDAN

Defense Council on Ethiopian Military Threat I 3 1/C11
Foreign Minister Leaves for Dakar Conference I 3 1/C11

TUNISIA

Eritrean Liberation Front Leader Arrives I 3 1/C11
Holds Talks I 4 1/C12
Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for UK I 4 1/C12
Libyan-Tunisian Trade Talks Continue in Tunis I 4 1/C12

ISRAEL

Dayan, Eban Discuss Israel's Mideast Peace Policy N 1 1/C13
Knesset Members Arens, Allon Interviewed N 6 1/D4
Peres: Labor Party Peace Plan Differs From Likud N 9 1/D7
Briefs: Arab Education Department Decentralized N 9 1/D7

IRAN

Khalatbari Speaks at London CENTO Session R 1 1/D8
Returns to Teheran R 2 1/D9
Iranian-Spanish Trade Agreement Reported R 2 1/D9
FRG's President Scheel Begins Talks With Shah in Teheran R 3 1/D10
Briefs: New Foreign Ministry Official R 3 1/D10

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Zia Announces Presidential Elections for 3 June S 1 1/D11
Ban on Political Meetings To Be Lifted by 1 May S 2 1/D12
Election Commission Releases Nomination Procedures S 2 1/D12

INDIA

Joint Indian-Syrian Statement Issued on Al-Asad's Visit S 3 1/D13
CPI-M Leader Demands Probe into Himalayan Nuclear Device S 5 1/E1

P-Ex 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-79

FBIS-MEA-78-79
Monday
24 April 1978
Vol V No 79

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

58

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

KUWAIT

TUNISIAN PRESIDENT'S SON CONVEYS MESSAGE TO AMIR

LD231157Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The amir this morning received Habib Bourguiba, Jr, special envoy of President Bourguiba of Tunisia, who handed him a message from President Bourguiba concerning relations between Kuwait and Tunisia and current developments in the Arab world. The ambassador of Tunisia to Kuwait attended the audience.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER RETURNS TO DOHA FROM RIYADH

NC201136Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 20 April--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani and his delegation returned to Doha from Riyadh this morning after attending the meetings of the fourth session of the Council of Governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAITI, JORDANIAN MINISTERS ARRIVE IN RIYADH

JN211651Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1612 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 21 April--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of foreign affairs, and Hasan Ibrahim, Jordianian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Riyadh this evening for consultations with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, on Arab solidarity and ways to strengthen it. These consultation are taking place before the Arab solidarity committee meetings scheduled to be held in Khartoum tomorrow, Saturday.

The two ministers were welcomed at the airport by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs. The two ministers and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will leave for Khartoum tomorrow to attend the meetings of the committee.

DELEGATIONS LEAVE FOR ARAB FUND MEETING

JN210807Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 21 April--This morning a special plane left Riyadh for Kuwait carrying the delegations of Bahrain, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Mauritania, Algeria, Iraq and Egypt, which had attended the meetings of the Board of Governors of the Arab Bank for Development in Africa. The Arab League delegation, the bank's delegation and the delegation of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development also left aboard the same plane.

These delegations will take part in the meetings of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development that will begin in Kuwait tomorrow.

The delegations were seen off at the airport by Finance and National Economy Minister Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl and a number of senior officials. Shaykh Aba al-Khayl is scheduled to leave Riyadh for Kuwait this evening for the same purpose.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR

JN232022Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 23 April--His Royal Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and chief of the national guard, met in his house this evening with U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom John West. The meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjari, assistant deputy chief of the national guard.

GABONESE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

JN231519Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1508 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 23 April--Omar Bongo, president of the Gabonese Republic, arrived here this evening on a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at the head of those who received him. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and chief of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh area; and His Excellency Dr Muhammad al-Mulham, minister of state; cabinet member and accompanying Minister [Al-Wazir al-Murafiq].

YEMEN--PDRY

PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR VISIT TO CHINA

LD231615Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Politburo member and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has expressed confidence that this official visit, beginning today, at the head of an official delegation to the friendly People's Republic of China [PRC] will contribute to increasing and expanding bilateral relations between the two countries and will afford the opportunity to exchange views on those Arab and international issues of common interest to the two countries.

In a press statement this morning shortly before leaving Aden for Peking at the start of a tour that will take him to some friendly countries in Indochina to which he has been invited by their heads of state, Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said his visit to the PRC would confirm our wish to continue our common efforts to develop relations of cooperation and friendship linking the government and people of our country to the government and people of that friendly country.

He appreciated the solidarity stand of the PRC on the side of the struggle of our people during the past 10 years and expressed his esteem for PRC support for our Arab national causes, such as the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples for the recovery of their legitimate national rights. He added that the past few years had witnessed a noticeable development in our relations with a number of fraternal and friendly countries.

Contacts between officials of our country and the friendly countries have achieved useful results in the field of expanding bilateral cooperation and the reviewing of current Arab and international affairs and the exchanging of views regarding them.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was seen off at the airport by brothers 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF]; Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the UPONF Central Committee; and a number of members of the Politburo and the Central Committee; ministers; ambassadors of the PRC, socialist Vietnam and Democratic Korea; and other heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the PDRY.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is accompanied on this visit by brothers Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Central Committee and minister of installations; Dr Abdullah Bukayr, member of the Central Committee and minister of health; Mahmud Sa'id Madhi, member of the Central Committee and minister of trade and supply; Salih Munassar as-Siyawli, member of the Central Committee and assistant secretary for foreign relations at the Secretariat of the Central Committee; and a number of other officials. The delegation is also accompanied by an information team representing the information media of the republic.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI RATIFIES PRESIDENCY RESOLUTION

JN222028Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At 1100 today the Constituent People's Assembly held an extraordinary meeting under 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, assistant chairman of the Command Council and speaker of the assembly, who began the meeting in the name of God and the people. He then asked the reporter of the Constitutional and Legislative Committee to read the report of the Constitutional and Legislative Committee.

Article 1: The basic [words indistinct] of the Constituent People's Assembly pertaining to the structure of the state presidency. A detailed discussion was then held on the report, after which the Constituent People's Assembly decided that the form of the presidency to be [word indistinct] in the president, who will represent the state presidency and assume the general command of the armed forces. The term of presidency shall be 5 years, (?to begin) as of the date of the announcement of the result of the elections as stipulated by the (?permanent) constitution. The president shall carry out the duties and exercise the authority of the state presidency as stipulated in the permanent constitution and the valid constitutional proclamations.

The assembly issued the following resolution:

Resolution of the Constituent People's Assembly on defining the form of the state presidency. In the name of God and the people, speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly:

After taking cognizance of the permanent constitution; the Command Council Statement No 1 of 1974; the constitutional proclamation issued 22 October 1975 on regulating the constitutional situation for the new transitional stage; the Command Council statement issued (?16) October 1977; the constitutional proclamation of 6 February 1978 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly, which was (?modified) by the constitutional proclamation issued 17 April 1978; the Resolution of the Command Council Chairman No 5 of 1978 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly; the Command Council resolution on Bill No 17 for 1978 on the issuance of the internal bylaws of the Constituent People's Assembly; the Resolution of the Command Council Chairman No 5 of 1978, approving the election of a speaker and two deputies for the Constituent People's Assembly; and in accordance with what the assembly passed in its session of (?22) April 1978 on defining the form of the state presidency, following the analysis study and discussion of the facts and the (?positive) considerations arrived at by the Constitutional and Legislative Committee in the report it submitted to the assembly, proceeding from Islamic law, in defining responsibility and the principle of consultations in Islam, and also proceeding

from the principle of national unity, political stability and considerations of the prevailing international relations in our world today; and in accordance with the desire of all sectors of the people and in view of the presence of constitutional guarantees [words indistinct] the constitutional institution as represented in the Constituent People's Assembly, I decree:

Article 1. The state presidency shall take the form of the president of the republic, who will represent the state presidency and assume the general command of the armed forces.

Article 2. The presidential term shall be 5 years, to begin the date the election results are announced as stipulated by the (?permanent) constitution.

Article 3. The president of the republic shall carry out the duties and exercise the authority of the state presidency as stipulated in the permanent constitution and the effective constitutional proclamations.

Article 4. This resolution shall be considered a constitutional document and a constitutional proclamation shall be issued about it.

Issued at the Constituent People's Assembly on 22 April 1978.

[Signed] Speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi.

A constitutional proclamation defining the form of the state presidency; in the name of God and the people; chairman of the Command Council:

After taking cognizance of the permanent constitution [words indistinct] of the Command Council No 1 of 1974; the constitutional (modification) of 22 October 1975 on regulating the constitutional situation for the new transitional stage; the Command Council statement of (?16) October 1977; the constitutional proclamation of 6 February 1978 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly, which was modified by the constitutional proclamation on 17 April 1978; and in accordance with the resolution of the Constituent People's Assembly issued 22 April 1978 defining the form of the state presidency and after the approval of the Command Council, I order:

Article 1. The resolution passed by the Constituent People's Assembly issued 22 April 1978 regarding the form of the state presidency, its jurisdictions and [word indistinct] shall be enforced.

Article 2. This constitutional proclamation shall be implemented as of its date of issuance and be published in the official gazette. All provisions contrary to it shall be abrogated.

Issued at the Command Council on 22 April 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces.

AL-ASNAJ ON ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JN232057Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 23 April--Before leaving Khartoum for Senegal today, YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj made a statement in which he praised the role played by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in achieving Arab solidarity. He said that Numayri's role has given strength to the aims of the first meeting of the Arab solidarity committee and has helped draw up a plan for future moves. The minister affirmed the confidence of the member states in President Numayri and said they would cooperate with him. He said that the YAR will be at the disposal of President Numayri until the date of the next meeting is fixed. The next meeting will be held under President Numayri after he returns from a tour of Arab states, Al-Asnaj added.

Al-Asnaj expressed his belief that the first meeting of the Arab solidarity committee was successful and had certain positive results despite the difficult nature of the tasks and of the Arab circumstances. Al-Asnaj asked the Arab states to revise their positions in light of the supreme Arab interests. He said: We all share the responsibility and are not mediators; there will be no difficulties if we all pursue the cherished goal.

In reply to a question on the possibility of holding an Arab summit conference, Al-Asnaj said that the main task before this committee is to prepare the atmosphere for an Arab summit by reevaluating the current situation and by taking the means to assure Arab solidarity.

The YAR foreign minister outlined the serious situation in the Horn of Africa and said: We call on the concerned sides to refrain from allowing foreign interference, to preserve the region from international power politics and to follow peaceful means in solving their differences.

In reply to a question on the current efforts to unify the two Yemens, Al-Asnaj said: What we can say now is that tension and military and political confrontations between the two Yemens have ceased following the fraternal dialog which has replaced guns. He expressed his opinion that the issue of unity is connected with proper and opportune circumstances and that coordination work will continue between the two parts in such areas as technical and economic cooperation and the unification of the curricula. Complete political unity is left for the two peoples to decide. He said that when the economic and political systems in the t o countries become identical, unity will become possible and practical. Otherwise it will be merely an emotional measure. The minister said: We must consider matters carefully so as not to take any emotional action which will make Yemeni unity a mirage rather than reality.

BRIEFS

PDRY DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS--The chairman of the Presidential Council, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, today appointed 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and Mihammad 'Abduh (Shattah), Mahmud 'Abd Allah Arasi and Ahmad Salih (Hajib), ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD/EA]

PDRY-GDR FISHERIES TALKS--Muhammad Sa'id, the minister for fish resources, had talks this morning with (Roland Schuman), GDR deputy minister of foreign trade, about ways to develop cooperation in fishing, especially in PDRY waters. 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Badhib, minister for culture and tourism, received GDR Ambassador Gunther Scharfenberg on the expiration of his term. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD/EA]

ATHERTON RESUMES CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPTIANS

Atherton Arrival Statement

NC211607Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 3-day visi to Egypt. He is here to continue the current efforts for achieving a comprehensive and just solution of the Middle East crisis.

In an arrival statement, Mr Atherton expressed pleasure at returning to Cairo again. He added that U.S. Secretary of State Vance had asked him to visit the area for talks with Egyptian officials as part of the U.S. efforts to promote the peace process. He said that this visit is a continuation of the efforts for peace following the historic initiative by President As-Sadat. He added that the United States believes there must be progress in the negotiations and in the peace process in order to achieve a comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

Mr Atherton added that he is looking forward to meeting with President as-Sadat and Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil to exchange views on how to achieve tangible progress toward the desired goal. He said that the United States is exerting efforts for reaching a just and lasting settlement in the area.

Asked if he is bringing new U.S. proposals, he said that he came to hear the views of Egyptian officials and to continue the peace process, exchange views and determine new ways for pushing the peace process forward. He said that the United States has its own views, but it will submit no proposals during this visit. The talks between Foreign Minister Kamil and Mr Atherton will begin tomorrow.

As-Sadat Invitation Denied

NC211610Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 April--U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton arrived in Cairo this afternoon. Answering a question, Atherton denied that he is brining an invitation for President As-Sadat to visit Washington. He also denied that he is bringing any U.S. proposals. He said: I am not here to submit proposals, but if we discover any point that may be useful to enhance the peace process we will take it into consideration when we submit our views.

Kamil To Confer With As-Sadat

NC221025Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 April--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today left Cairo for Al-Ghurdaqah to hold consultations with President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat prior to the talks which will be held this evening between the foreign minister and U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton at the Foreign Ministry. Roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton arrived in Cairo yesterday evening to hold talks with the Egyptian officials on the Middle East issue.

As-Sadat Sees Mubarak, Kamil

NC2219052 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat met at noon today with Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. The radio correspondent has learned that the Middle East situation was discussed at the 1-hour meeting. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil submitted a report on the situation to President Anwar as-Sadat.

Atherton Talks With Kamil

NC2219022 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The discussions between Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton began at 1840 today. The discussions were attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, chief of the foreign minister's office Ambassador Ahmad Mahir and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts. The discussions are centered on the latest developments in the Middle East crisis and ways of consolidating the efforts for achieving a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the crisis.

Kamil, Atherton Statements

NC2220262 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Following his 2-and-1/2-hour discussion with Alfred Atherton, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the two exchanged views on developments in the Middle East situation. He expressed Egypt's appreciation of the U.S. role as a partner in pushing the peace process forward. He said: Mr Atherton's visit was a part of this effort, and we welcome him. We have conducted useful talks. President as-Sadat will receive Mr Atherton tomorrow.

Mr Atherton said that intensive discussions took place at the meeting regarding all problems, particularly the preparation for tomorrow's meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat. He added that these talks were part of the consultations for pushing the peace process forward. He said: Our contacts with the Israelis are within this context. He said the United States is positively taking part and is committed to bring about progress for the resumption of negotiations. He said: It is useful for us to speak with the other parties and with Egypt to move the peace process forward.

Atherton Leaves for Al-Ghurdaqah

NC2310002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 April--The U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, left Cairo for Al-Ghurdaqah this morning to meet President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil is accompanying the U.S. roving ambassador and the members of Atherton's delegation. This delegation includes Michael Sterner and William Kirby, Atherton's two assistants, U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts and director of the foreign minister's office Ambassador Ahmad Mahir.

President as-Sadat's meeting with Atherton comes within the context of the efforts being exerted to enhance the peace process in the Middle East. The Egyptian-U.S. discussions began at 1900 yesterday. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil headed the Egyptian side and Ambassador Atherton the U.S. side.

As-Sadat Meets With Atherton

NC231608Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Al-Ghurdaqah, 23 April--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today met with U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton. They discussed the Middle East problem and the means for resuming the Egyptian-Israeli talks. The meeting, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Al-Ghurdaqah, was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz, Mr Atherton's assistant Michael Sterner, and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts.

Following the meeting, which lasted 2 hours and 30 minutes, Atherton said his talks with President Anwar as-Sadat were very useful. He also said that President as-Sadat gave him a personal message for President Carter. He said he will convey the message before he leaves Cairo on Tuesday. Speaking to newsmen in this Red Sea town, Atherton said: We discussed in detail all questions connected with the peace process and the means of achieving further progress in this process.

Answering a battery of questions, Atherton said: I have not brought American proposals with me, but we have exchanged opinions on a number of subjects. He then said: We do not exclude the possibility that the United States will submit certain ideas so that the various sides may study them.

Atherton said that President as-Sadat indicated he is prepared to send Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil to Washington if this will be useful in continuing the process of deliberations. Asked when Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will leave for Washington, Atherton said: No decision has been made in this regard; it was agreed only in principle.

Atherton said: My present mission is different from previous missions in which I conveyed the ideas of each side to the other. During this tour we reviewed and studied all the difficulties impeding the resumption of the negotiations. We will discuss these matters with the Israeli side as well.

The newsmen told Atherton they have the impression that President as-Sadat insists that there can be no progress unless Israel changes its attitude and asked Atherton if he has the same impression. He said: I believe this is true since President as-Sadat feels that certain attitudes should be changed. Atherton said: I am confident that means can be found for giving a new momentum to the peace process.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will hold another meeting tomorrow with Alfred Atherton, who will leave Cairo for Washington on Tuesday.

Atherton Press Conference

NC231933Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Al-Ghurdaqah, 23 April--U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton made a statement to newsmen following his meeting with President as-Sadat in Al-Ghurdaqah today. The text of the statement follows:

First, let me say that I held very good talks with President as-Sadat. I am very grateful to the president for granting me a long meeting. President as-Sadat asked me to convey a personal message to President Carter, which I will receive before I leave Cairo. President as-Sadat has also offered to send the foreign minister to Washington at any time we feel is useful for resuming this process of consultations. We had very searching discussions of all the issues connected with the peace process and with ways to make further progress in this process.

As I have said before, we believe that this is part of the process of the consultations with all sides. We will also hold consultations with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan later this week in Washington for the purpose of reaching an agreement on what the next step should be in the peace process. I believe that today we reached a better, more detailed understanding on possible methods for resuming the talks. I would like to say that I am confident that means can be found for giving new momentum to the peace process.

In answer to a question, Atherton said: We did not convey any U.S. proposals. We discussed several ideas and exchanged opinions on several ideas, as we always do when we hold such meetings. However, as I have said before, we certainly do not exclude the possibility of submitting U.S. ideas so that the sides may study them. We believe that for us to hold consultations with the sides is a useful method for making progress in the negotiations.

Atherton said: If it is useful for the Egyptian foreign minister to go to Washington to continue the consultations, he will be glad to do so. Atherton added: I do not know if this will be necessary. No decision has been made yet. Atherton welcomed Egypt's offer to send the Egyptian foreign minister to Washington if the process of consultations requires this. Atherton said: I did not gain such an impression during the discussions. It is clear that I prefer to let the Egyptian Government answer this question. As for me, I did not gain such an impression.

In answer to another question, Atherton said: We dealt with a number of ideas. We are not at a stage in which we or others are submitting proposals. This mission is different from my previous missions in which I conveyed the proposals of one party to the other. He added: We are simply explaining and studying the various difficulties arising in the process of negotiations with the Egyptian Government. We will do the same thing with Israeli Government next week.

Question: Did President as-Sadat ask for a U.S. proposal or a draft U.S. document on permanent peace?

Answer: Well, you know that I am too tired to go into any specific topics pertaining to these discussions, which are still a secret. I believe it would be improper for me to discuss details about what President Anwar as-Sadat said, or about what I said or what we did not say.

Question: President as-Sadat has given us the impression that no further progress in negotiations can be achieved before there is a clear change in Israeli policy. Is this also your impression?

Answer: Yes, I believe this is true. President as-Sadat feels that there are specific stands which must be amended. As we have explained in public statements, we have differences with Israel. We feel that these differences must be resolved and ways must be found to keep them from recurring.

Question: Do you hope to resume the negotiations before or after reaching an agreement on the declaration of principles?

Answer: First, I absolutely do not feel that the negotiations are over. Negotiations were conducted indirectly with our assistance during the last few weeks. What I am talking about is reaching a point at which the process of direct negotiations can be resumed. I made some suggestions regarding this point. When this is achieved, that is when an agreement is reached on the declaration of principles, progress will then be achieved in this process.

Question: When will you leave Cairo?

Answer: I will leave Cairo Tuesday.

Question: For Jerusalem?

Answer: No, I am returning to Washington.

Kamil Comments on Israeli Position

NC231822Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Al-Ghurdaqah, 23 April--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that Egypt is continuing to pursue its political line to reach a comprehensive settlement on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian people. The statement was made following today's meeting in Al-Ghurdaqah between President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton. The meeting was attended by the Egyptian foreign minister. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil was told that there is an impression that there will be no progress if Israel does not change its attitude. He said: Naturally, there must be a change in the Israeli stand. This is something which has not happened so far.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER

NC221130Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 22 April--U.S. President Jimmy Carter has received a letter from President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat connected with the peace efforts in the Middle East in reply to a letter the U.S. President sent to President as-Sadat. Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Ashraf Ghurbal handed the letter to member of the U.S. National Security Council William Quandt at a meeting held between the two men yesterday.

At this meeting, Ghurbal and Quandt reviewed recent developments of the peace process in the Middle East in light of the upcoming talks to be held by the U.S. officials with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan during the latter's visit to Washington around the end of this month in connection with finding the means to move the peace process forward.

MEMBERS OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION ARRESTED

NC220730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 April--AL-AHRAM reports today that the security authorities have clamped down on an extremist terrorist organization. The mission of the organization was to carry out a series of assassinations and acts of sabotage in Egypt. The paper explains that the State Security Prosecution Department 2 days ago began a large-scale interrogation of members of the secret organization, which includes extemist elements from some Arab states and from two European states. The paper notes that representatives of the embassies of these states attended some stages of the interrogation.

AL-AHRAM says that as of yesterday, Friday, the State Security Intelligence Service of the Interior Ministry had arrested some 20 members of this terrorist organization, adding that some of these members have made important, detailed confessions about the dimensions of this plan and about the quarters which drew up the terrorist plans and which are directing the attempts to carry out these plans inside Egypt.

The paper notes that these confessions have made it clear that the aim of the terrorist organization is to carry out terrorist operations, assassinations and acts of sabotage against the Egyptian domestic front within the framework of external plans directed against Egypt in this very phase to hinder and halt the Egyptian people's efforts to resolve their problems.

AL-AHRAM also explains that the detailed confessions made by the members of the extremist organization have proved useful to the Interior Ministry organs in dealing with and foiling the sabotage plans, adding that an investigation is underway to determine the real link connecting the members of this organization with the other organizations of international terrorism and the Red Brigades organization in Italy.

Attorney General's Statement

NC221612Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 April--The investigations being carried out by the state's supreme security prosecution have revealed the involvement of certain extremist European and Arab elements in the country, including a Swiss national and a German woman studying in Cairo, in a hostile plan against the safety of the state. This was stated by the attorney general, counselor Ibrahim al-Qalyubi, who added that the state's supreme security intelligence recently arrested a number of terrorists in the country, most of whom come from Arab states, and that the general prosecution has ordered their detention, pending the investigation of the case.

The attorney general further said that in confirmation of the supremacy of the law and the rules of justice in Egyptian society, representatives of the embassies have been permitted to contact their accused citizens. He added that the prosecution will not disclose any details about this case at present to insure the satisfactory progress of the investigations.

Fatah Splinter Group

NC240647Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 April--Monday's issue of the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the investigation into the terrorist organization uncovered recently by the state security authorities has revealed serious information indicating that the Palestinian members of this organization belong to an organization which has broken away from Fatah. This organization calls itself Al-Khat as-Sahih Lifatah [Correct Course of Fatah] and belongs to Abu Nidal's organization, which is based in Iraq. It was elements from Abu Nidal's organization that carried out the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i in Cyprus and Sa'id Hamani in London.

AL-AHRAM adds that the leader of Al-Khat as-Sahih Lifatah in Egypt held contacts with the international Red Brigades organization through the Swiss student who is now under arrest and who, it has been proven, is of Italian origin. The aim of these contacts was to coordinate between the two organizations in order to carry out acts of sabotage and assassinate a number of Egyptian and foreign personalities residing in Egypt so as to drive a wedge between Egypt and certain foreign states. AL-AHRAM says the members of the terrorist organization had received very advanced training on weapons. Among those arrested is a Jordanian who is a member of the Palestinian organization which has broken away from Fatah.

AL-AHRAM says that large quantities of anti-Egyptian leaflets and a printing press were found in the house of one of the members of the organization. These leaflets are identical to those distributed in various parts of Cairo and Alexandria over the past 2 months.

PRESS COMMENTS ON TERRORISM, ATHERTON VISIT

NC230746Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Press review]

[Text] The Cairo newspapers this morning highlight the news of the meeting President as-Sadat will hold today with U.S. envoy Alfred Atherton within the framework of the present diplomatic efforts to reactivate the movement toward agreement on a declaration of principles for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis. The Cairo newspapers also shed light on the secrets of the terrorist organization which the security authorities uncovered recently. The papers point out that the investigation has proved that all the members of this organization are foreigners. No Egyptian citizens at all are members.

Commenting on the aims of this organization, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that the terrorist organization, whose goal is to strike at the domestic front, is subject, in one form or another, to the control of an international organization which operates throughout Europe and which extends its activity with the cooperation of radical subversive elements in the Arab world. This is the same organization which has carried out a number of previous terrorists attempts and actions such as hijacking planes. The possibility that this organization is linked with the assassination of the late Yusuf as-Siba'i in Cyprus and with the kidnaping of Italian leader Aldo Moro by the so-called Red Brigades in Italy cannot be excluded.

AL-AHRAM explains that suspicion and accusations have for some time been leveled at certain irrational regimes in the Middle East. These regimes have found a role to play in international political terrorism and have allied themselves with it and extended it to the necessary financial support. However, the boldness with which these international gangs have begun to move, by using foreign elements in local acts of subversion and assassination, poses many questions about the nature of the political cover under which they operate and about whose aims they are serving. It also places a great responsibility on the Egyptian security services, which have proven their alertness.

It is highly likely that big forces are behind this wide-scale activity. These forces are interested in stirring up trouble and strife in Egypt to achieve aims that are definitely not in the interests of Egypt and its people.

Meanwhile, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the statement made by Alfred Atherton upon his arrival in Cairo to the effect that President Carter's administration is committed to seeking all ways to achieve comprehensive peace in the Middle East is at least a good statement. However, this is not all that is required or all that the Carter administration is supposed to do. We can listen to such statements and affirmations by U.S. officials for another 10 years about the U.S. commitment to seek all ways to achieve peace without the actual achievement of peace.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that since the Israeli leaders have not been able to rise to the level of the historic initiative of President as-Sadat, the U.S. administration must realize the momentous nature of this initiative as a unique move in the history of the area. The paper says: What we expect the Carter administration to do is to adopt a position that goes beyond traditional diplomacy and that will give the peacemaking process a sufficient push to bring genuine peace to the Middle East.

Concluding its commentary, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the U.S. administration must realize that there is only one way to the achievement of comprehensive peace: total Israeli withdrawal and recognition of the rights of the Palestinians.

MINISTER SAYS COMMUNISM PLOTTING AGAINST EGYPT

NC2306111Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2346 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 April--The People's Assembly held a meeting tonight under Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i to discuss the question of the agreement the minister of information and culture signed with a Saudi investor to establish an investment company for the motion picture industry and television production.

Information Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi made a statement at the assembly in which he answered two questions by two assembly members regarding this subject. He said that the uproar raised by some people about the agreement conceals behind it a plan which is primarily directed against Egypt's cultural policy. 'Abd al-Mun-im as-Sawi said the aim of this plan is to prevent the spread of this cultural strategy from Egypt to the Arab or international arenas in order to isolate Egypt from its Arab sisters and in order that its voice outside Egypt may die down and gradually disappear.

The information and culture minister said that these trends conform with those of the rejectionist states, which are plotting against Egypt's policy and against the peace initiative. Peace would reveal the true nature of the rejectionist states and put them in confrontation with their people, who shun them. 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi accused international communism, under the leadership of the Soviet Union, of backing these people. He said that the plan of international communism is to contain Egypt's peace policy and to strike at Egypt's political, economic and cultural strategy. He said that communism believes that it might succeed and thus intimidate other states which yearn for freedom.

CABINET MEETS, ISSUES STATEMENT ON MEETING

NC240653Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 April--The cabinet, at a meeting held this evening under Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, called on all international quarters and the big powers to shoulder their responsibility toward the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

This was stated by minister of information and culture 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi after the cabinet meeting. As-Sawi said that at the beginning of the meeting, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim reviewed the external situation and the obstacles put by Israel in the way of implementation of Security Council 425. The cabinet also heard a detailed report by Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi and another report by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

The cabinet affirmed that Egypt still insists on establishing a just peace in the area. Egypt also sticks to its view that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East problem. Egypt also affirms the need for recognition of the Palestinians' rights to self-determination and to set up their own state and for Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi said that the prime minister affirmed that there can be no relinquishment of any Arab territory under any formula, explaining that this has become understood and accepted by all international quarters since the peace initiative which began last November.

The prime minister noted that we must not be satisfied with the transformations which have taken place in the attitude of the international community but that in our contacts with all sides on the international and bilateral levels, all efforts must be dedicated to accelerating the peace process, rallying international support for it so that international quarters may shoulder their responsibility toward establishing peace based on justice and putting pressure on Israel to adopt an attitude compatible with the Egyptian initiative- something which it has not done so far.

The prime minister explained that security cannot be achieved at the expense of the occupation of the lands of others by force but by respect for internationally recognized national and political rights. The prime minister said it is the basic obligation of Egyptian diplomacy to prove to all international quarters that Egypt's and the Arabs' insistence on this strategy does not place obstacles in the path of peace but is the cornerstone for establishing peace in the area.

MEASURES TO MEET ARAB FOOD REQUIREMENTS DISCUSSED

LD211740Y Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Apr 78 p 6 LD

[Muhammad Hijazi article: "Arab Food Security: A National Necessity"]

[Excerpts] On Monday, 10 April, the seminar on food problems in the Arab world opened in Kuwait. The seminar will discuss various aspects of the food problem and ways to insure food supplies now and in the future.

The 4-day seminar was organized by the Academy of Arab Studies and Research in collaboration with the University of Kuwait, the Arab Economic Unity Council, and the Economic Committee for Western Asia. The World Food Council is also taking part in the seminar.

With the escalation of the fierce imperialist-Zionist onslaught--under Washington's leadership--against the Arab revolutionary movement, the question of insuring food supplies for the Arab homeland assumes greater importance. Not long ago, the United States, the world's leading food producer and exporter, threatened that it would stop providing the Arab countries with their food requirements unless the oil countries complied with its desired policy of increasing oil production and reducing oil prices. In other words, the United States wants to put its hands on the oil revenues (and not just money surpluses) in return for almost nothing.

Therefore, the answer to Washington's threats of starvation must come through following a sound Arab policy of integrated agriculture and food production in the Arab homeland, as well as through turning the present shortage into a future surplus.

But agricultural integration and food production in the Arab homeland can only come through comprehensive economic integration. Although agriculture is a basic source for development in the Arab homeland, it is also part of a complementary and balanced economy and dependent on a developed industrial base capable of providing agriculture and food production with all the tractors, trucks and machinery it needs as well as with fertilizers and chemicals.

The low agricultural productivity in the Arab countries makes it necessary that priority be given to vertical expansion and carrying this expansion to its limits before directing efforts to horizontal expansion. Priority for vertical expansion results not only from the relatively small investments necessary and the high return they give, but from the fact that the experience of vertical expansion will also be available for application to newly developed farmland.

Arab fishing wealth has been exploited in a primitive manner so far, and on a very limited scale. In addition to the large numbers of rivers and canals, the Arab homeland includes the Arab Gulf, the Arabian and the Red Seas and borders on two great oceans, the Indian and the Atlantic.

Despite the fact that the area of the Arab homeland, including Somalia and Mauritania, totals more than 13 million square kilometers, less than 0.1 percent of it is cultivated and that in a primitive manner. Also, large quantities of water flow in the Arab homeland but much of it is wasted in the sea or lost through evaportation or marshlands.

According to a research paper submitted to the Kuwait seminar by the Arab Economic Unity Council, a comprehensive Arab agricultural plan within the framework of economic integration could, by 1985, increase the annual production of wheat, for example, to 28 million tons as compared with the estimated wheat requirements then of 17 million tons.

Obviously the implementation of such sound recommendations would contribute to insuring food security not only for the Arab homeland but would also be in the interest of the developing countries.

PDRY INDUSTRY MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT TO IRAQ

JN240756Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 April--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, PDRY minister of planning and industry, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad enroute to Aden this morning following a 1-day visit to Iraq.

In a predeparture statement, 'Abd al-Wali stated that his talks with 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and planning minister, were fruitful and successful and dealt with the projects which Iraq will finance as part of the development plan in the PDRY.

He pointed out that an agreement was reached to continue the consultations between officials of the two fraternal countries regarding political events in the Arab area.

BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN230846Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0752 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 April--Belgian Minister of Foreign Trade Hektor de Bruyne and his delegation today began a 5-day visit to Iraq. During his visit, De Bruyne will have talks with Iraqi trade minister Hasan 'Ali and several Iraqi officials on developing relations between Iraq and Belgium in the trade, economic and technical fields.

FORMER ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL LEADER RETURNS

JN231419Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 April--Dr 'Abd al-'Al as-Saqban, former secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council, has returned to Baghdad at the end of his term of office. The last official task Dr as-Saqban performed was to head the recent discussion of technical cooperation between the UN development program and the general secretariat of the Arab Economic Unity Council, in New York. Dr as-Saqban said that these discussions will result in the continuation of cooperation for the next 5 years. The cooperation involves $3 million [as received], with half to be paid by the development program and half by the Arab Economic Unity Council.

Dr as-Saqban said that within the next 2 months Fakhri Qadduri, the new secretary general of the council, will select a team of Arab economists to implement the program.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL GREETS GAZA STRIP DELEGATION

JN222111Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 April--Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, today received a Palestinian delegation from the occupied Gaza Strip.

The meeting dealt with the plight of the Arab people of Palestine under the Zionist oppression and terror. Dr ar-Razzaz assured the delegation of the party's continued backing and support for the Arab citizens inside the occupied Arab territories and its aiding them to remain firm in their struggle against the occupation forces.

The delegation arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit to Iraq that will last several days.

DESIGNATED ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL HEAD RETURNS

JN211421Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 April--Dr Fakhri Qadduri, president of the Central Bank and secretary general designate of the Arab Economic Unity Council, returned to Baghdad this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Cairo.

Dr Qadduri stated that he was briefed on the nature of work at the council and the topics on the agenda of the next meeting, scheduled to be held on 6 June.

Dr Qadduri is scheduled to assume his responsibilities as secretary general on 1 May.

IRAQI AIR FORCE COMMANDER BEGINS 5-DAY VISIT TO IRAN

JN231203Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Teheran, 23 April--The major general commanding the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense arrived here today for a 5-day visit to Iran. During his visit, the major general will meet with Lt Gen (Husayn Rabi'i), commander of the Iranian air force, and will visit several military installations.

IRAQI MINISTER LEAVES FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN SENEGAL

JN210803Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 April--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan left today for Dakar at the head of a delegation to represent Iraq in the ninth conference of the foreign ministers of Islamic states which will begin in Dakar next Monday.

BRIEFS

SENEGALESE ENVOY LEAVES--Baghdad, 19 April--Moustaphe Niasse, envoy of Senegalese President Leopold Senghor, today left Baghdad after delivering a letter from President Senghor to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr on the relations between the two friendly countries and the means to strengthen them. Niasse said that the relations between Iraq and Senegal are constantly developing in the interest of the two friendly peoples and that the two countries are playing an important role in strengthening Arab-African solidarity in all fields. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN]

DANISH HOUSING MINISTER DEPARTS--Baghdad, 19 April--Danish Minister of Housing Ove Hove and his delegation this morning left Baghdad at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq. Hove said that the great resources which Iraq has to implement its housing and reconstruction plans indicate the experience and high qualification of the Iraqi engineers and experts and their ability to implement these plans. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN]

HUSAYN ADDRESSES NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

JN241030Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At 1100 today, His Majesty King Husayn opened the first session of the National Consultative Council. His Majesty King Husayn delivered a comprehensive pan-Arab speech. In his speech, his majesty the king said that societies are a spirit before they are laws and structures and that the spirit of good, construction and amity constitutes the strongest mainstay in any family, nation or establishment.

His Majesty King Husayn defined certain concepts and objectives which represent the pillars of the Jordanian entity and presence. His majesty said that Jordan is a principal and vital part of the Arab nation. Jordan, since its inception as a modern state, has been founded on a comprehensive pan-Arab mission.

His Majesty King Husayn called for drawing up an all-out integrated Arab policy that would insure our joint action and place our massive resources in the service of our pan-Arab objectives.

His majesty asserted that the Jordanian Army is the Arab nation's army and the shield of the great homeland.

The opening ceremony was attended by Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the National Consultative Council Ahmad al-Lawzi, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, Minister of the Royal Court 'Amir Khammas and the ministers.

HUSAYN ADDRESSES SENATE ON MIDEAST ISSUES

JN231859Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon with the Jordanian Senate. At this meeting, his majesty reviewed all aspects of the situation on the local, Arab and international levels.

His majesty said: I have found it necessary to meet with the country's Senate at this delicate stage we are experiencing in our country and in the great homeland in the face of great defiance. I want to explain aspects of the situation to you so as to clarify matters. This country needs all its sons, men and resources. Everyone must exhibit the highest level of awareness, cooperation and support. We constantly need to listen to the views of the brothers on all matters. We need to listen to all sides and give our views so as to emerge with the best results.

In this country we have tried, and continue to try, to employ all our resources in every field. Our projects and ambitions are well-known and clear. The road is difficult, our material resources are limited and our main wealth is people. We are challenging the impossible to build our strength. Let everyone know that with the strength and determination of its people, Jordan is capable not only of defending itself, but also of projecting its Arab nation from danger.

His majesty further said: All of us know that the East Bank was included in the Balfour Declaration. However, the efforts of the founder of the kingdom, his colleagues and brothers, who passed before us along the road, managed to save the country in the face of the danger from which our country has been and still is a target, especially since 1967. We are trying to achieve a just peace in the area. Security Council Resolution 242 was adopted. It was accompanied by promises that it would be applied and carried out in a short period. Several years have passed, but the situation remains the same.

I remember that I said at the UN General Assembly that Israel must choose between land and peace. After 1973, settlements began to be established and are still being established; there have been substantial changes in the occupied Arab land, and enormous military preparations are underway in Israel.

His majesty said: We on the Arab side want peace, but a just and honorable peace that will return the land to its owners and give them their legitimate right to determine their future on their land and in their homeland.

His majesty said: It was said that if Israel is strong, it might be moderate. Now Israel has increased its forces, but its intransigence has increased simultaneously. Israel is constantly defying world public opinion as well as the parties which participated and are participating in building its forces.

We are now approaching a stage where it definitely seems that the chances are not opportune for the establishment of a just and honorable peace. The main reason for missing this chance is Israel's intransigent stand and the Arab world's weakness as a result of its disintegration.

His majesty further said: Our Arab homeland possesses enormous material resources and massive manpower. The Arabs must pool these factors to give them hope for the future and the strength and ability to confront the dangers and change the balance of power with the adversary. Thus, we have found that our responsiblity in this country, in particular, dictates that we make moves to unify the Arab ranks and to pool resources to defend our nation's issues. We called for convening an Arab summit meeting in order to contribute to drawing up the best course and to rescue the homeland. We will continue our attempts to bring about this meeting and to see the leaders adopt a comprehensive plan. God willing, this meeting will eventually take place. We have drawn up a proposed working program to be the basis for study at the Arab summit conference.

His majesty reviewed the factors which led to the establishment of the National Consultative Council and explained the conditions which led to the freezing of electoral parliamentary activity due to the occupation and the subsequent developments on the Arab stage. His Majesty King Husayn said: This council has not been established at the expense of any existing constitutional institution, including the Senate. The task of the new council is to become acquainted with what is taking place, discuss the bills, express opinions and conduct consultations. This will help strengthen us and firmly establish the bases of consultation and democracy, without harming the bases of our constitution and laws. I hope that we will all march ahead as one body with one heart so as to serve our homeland and be an example for the others through our cooperation and cohesion.

The Senate was then briefed on the working paper proposed by the Jordanian Government for the Arab summit conference. Prime Minister Mudar Badran offered some clarifications on it.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni expressed thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for his prudent directives and stressed that the Senate will pursue the course drawn up by his majesty. The Senate will do this in the spirit of the pan-Arab message which King Husayn and Jordan bear in the local, Arab and international spheres. The Senate president expressed the Senate's support for every step undertaken by his majesty for the sake of the Arabs and for the construction of Jordan.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hasan, the crown prince; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of court; and Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain.

HUSAYN ADDRESSES SPECIAL FORCES CEREMONY

JN221939Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the armed forces, has stated that the Arab nation is now passing through the most difficult circumstances. He said that we in Jordan are preparing ourselves and that we stand on the dearest and purest of land, facing the challenges and risks. We are working on the Arab level, and all over the world, so that rights may be restored, territories returned to their owners and Jerusalem returned to Arab sovereignty.

This came in the speech addressed by his majesty to the special forces on their 7th anniversary. His majesty said: Years ago, due to the challenges we faced and are still destined to face, the need arose for the formation of a special force in the ranks of the Arab legion and the armed forces. This force was chosen from among the best of our men, from citizens armed with awareness and determination and able to rise to the required standards, through training, to perform their tasks in every field and always to be pioneers. His majesty added: We in the armed forces train all men to perform their inevitable role and fulfill their duties toward those who preceded us on the long path. This is our symbol of preserving our Arabism, character and rights and those of future generations.

His majesty attended the celebration of the anniversary of the establishment of the special forces which was held this morning.

SHARAF SEES NEW COUNCIL AS INTERIM STEP TO DEMOCRACY

JN231155Y Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2010 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Jordan Television interview by John Danvers with Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, on the newly formed National Consultative Council--recorded]

[Text] [Question] On what basis have the 60 members of the Consultative Council been chosen?

[Answer] The royal message to the government cited three criteria: one was the representative character of the individual, the second was competence and the third was loyalty to the constitution and the country. These are the three criteria.

[Question] How far do you feel you have ended up with the representative cross section of Jordanian society?

[Answer] Well, I think that the selection process has led to, I think, a very good choice, which I think combines two factors: One is representative sector, but also it has taken into account the need to give a chance to some of the younger people, who, while representative and competent, may under normal circumstances of elections be for now handicapped. But there was also an element of putting forward some of the younger faces and talents.

[Question] Does that also mean that you have deliberately included some people who might well be critical of ministers, quite critical of the way in which Jordan is administered?

[Answer] Sometimes one has the feeling that everyone is critical of the ministers. We tend to be in many ways quite critical of leaders in our part of the world, but I think that if by your question you meant whether the selection process has led to the choice of people who are independent, single-minded and have the ability and the courage to state their views openly if there was a need to criticize the processes of the government and the services of the government and broader policies, yes, I think the selection process has led to people who are ready to do that in a constructive spirit.

[Question] Taking the mechanics of the council as an institution, how often do you expect them to meet?

[Answer] The law itself has not defined that. It has left it to the internal procedures, or all the procedure and organization of the Consultative Council. It is most likely that they will meet quite regularly and that they will have a recess. But this is something which is left entirely to the agreement between the president of the council and the prime minister and the government.

[Question] Who will decide what they discuss, what is on the agenda of any given meeting?

[Answer] Well, the law has defined the powers of the council, and these are the following: First, every law or every legislation will have to go through the Consultative Council, and the council will give to the government its opinion. Secondly, the council itself can propose legislation or can propose the amendment of legislation. Thirdly, the council can discuss public issues and issues of public policy in various areas. And fourthly, the council can look into the various services of the government and ask questions and discuss these issues. This is the general framework. And then, of course, the situation itself as it evolves will define what particular questions will be discussed on the agenda.

[Question] Will the council be free to take a vote on issues on which they find themselves divided?

[Answer] Naturally, it will have to vote on all issues. But the opinion is not binding in the legal sense on the government, but it will be advisory. We think that it will amount to being a very great weight because of the moral weight of such a decision. The reason that the council is going to be a consultative, and therefore advisory, council rather than in the legal sense binding in its decisions, is because our constitution does not allow, does not probide in its present character and provisions, our constitution does not allow the allocation of legislative power to a nonelected body unless there is a major constitutional change. I think that people who were considering the various ideas have come to the conclusion that it was the best from the constitution point of view. The legal advisers too consider that this is the best formula to build a form of dialog and discussion and that can also discuss legislation thoroughly and have the moral weight which might amount to a legal binding character.

[Question] Will the press be free to report the proceedings of the council?

[Answer] Well, we hope that the press will be free in reporting the proceedings the way it is free at the moment. Our press is, almost uniquely in this part of the world, privately owned and enjoys a great deal of freedom. Of course it is restricted by certain factors. We don't have censorship, but we certainly...but our press people take into account the need to cooperate closely with the government in view of the fact that we are a developing country with many, many problems and dangers.

And, therefore, they will be restricted by their own sense of responsibility in reporting these proceedings, in the same way that members of the council ought to restrict themselves also by their sense of responsibility from bordering on the negative, and probably even the destructive. We hope that the sense of responsibility will prevail in our political institutions and, of course, in our press so that we can work cooperatively in these very difficult days as far as we are concerned.

[Question] Will council members be able to raise individual grievances of individual citizens?

[Answer] The council will be able to raise various grievances in its debates. But, of course, individual grievances have never been blocked in Jordan. I mean various government agencies have always been accessible to petitioning. The royal palace itself, the king, has been himself accessible. And the machinery in the palace has been accessible to individual grievances, and, of course, the various agencies. But members of Parliament, members of the Consultative Council, will obviously have the right and the freedom to do that, except, of course, inasmuch as in any consultative body or Parliament, you don't want the body itself to deteriorate into one where individual issues are discussed. But you would like to have a discussion of collective issues in a constructive way.

[Question] [Words indistinct] number of committees, will ministers appear before these committees to explain their policies and answer questions from the members of the council?

[Answer] Yes, ministers will and the prime minister will, and this is something to be arranged in agreement between the government, the cabinet, and the Consultative Council.

[Question] How far do you see the setting up of the council as an administrative improvement primarily aimed to make the government machine run better and how far as a move to get toward more representative government?

[Answer] I think more the latter than the first. His majesty the king has shown, I think, over the years great sensitivity to the need for dialog, for the need for consultation and for the need to have full constructive expression of opinion in the country. Of course, occasionally we have been restricted, and the king's desire to maintain freedom and participation by the people has often been handicapped or restricted by either external dangers, or by subversive activities that have been conducted against this country or by the atmosphere of chaos and anarchy and probably negativism which has prevailed in the area generally over many years and have had their effect on Jordan. But otherwise, he has shown this consistent attitude, and, therefore, I think that he himself, his majesty the king, envisages this experiment as a step in the direction of dialog and consultation and more participatory government rather than an administrative improvement. Although, as a byproduct, I am sure that this will produce more thorough accounting and more thorough sort of review of the administrative activities of the government.

[Question] Is it possible to think of moving any further forward than the Consultative Council toward real democracy while the West Bank is occupied?

[Answer] Well, the king has made it very clear in his royal message to the government that the Consultative Council is no alternative, no substitute to the restoration of full parliamentary electoral democracy.

This is a provisional, interim arrangement that has been forced upon Jordan as a result of the occupation of the West Bank and what followed--the Rabat conference resolution and the various other problems that have developed on the Arab scene. But I think that there is always the possibility of reviewing this present formula in the future in the light of the ultimate purpose of restoring parliamentary electoral democracy.

[Question] Sharif Sharaf, thank you very much.

[Answer] Thank you very much.

PRESS COMMENTS ON ATHERTON'S VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

JN2207352 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Alfred Atherton, U.S. roving ambassador to the Middle East, has returned to resume his efforts to establish peace in the area, saying that he is not carrying any U.S. proposals. The editorials in today's newspapers deal with this subject.

The newspaper AR-RA'Y says: The U.S. envoy's return to the area--at a time when Arab moves to convene a summit conference have reached their peak--raises several questions regarding the real motive behind the U.S. attempts to resume the bilateral negotiations, after the entire world has become convinced that these negotiations have failed.

The paper continues: remarks made by French deputy Raymond Overoit might shed some light on the nature of Atherton's new move. Overoit has expressed the conviction that Washington might find itself forced to accept the principle of concluding a separate peace agreement between Egypt and Israel under the pressure of the Zionist lobby in the United States.

AR-RA'Y adds: the obvious objective of the current Arab moves is to heal the rift and hold a summit conference, as well as to build the intrinsic Arab power. This requires the cessation of all attempts to revive unsuccessful initiatives, because we fear that these attempts might plant time bombs in the Arab arena to prevent the unity of Arab action.

On the same subject, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: Atherton has returned to Cairo in search of new ideas and methods to move the peace process. This is what he stated yesterday upon his arrival in Cairo. At the same time, Moshe Dayan stated in occupied Jerusalem that the U.S. envoy might return to Washington carrying new Egyptian ideas. Dayan will be in the U.S. capital next Wednesday and the U.S. envoy is scheduled to return there directly from Cairo to participate in the talks which Dayan and Cyrus Vance will hold there. Thus, it is obvious that it is Cairo which is the objective of Atherton's visit, although Israel has not offered anything new worth replying to.

AD-DUSTUR says: Naturally, it is difficult for any Arab to imagine, even for a moment, that Egypt will make any concessions on its land, or relent on any Arab rights, or accept a separate or phased solution, particularly since President as-Sadat has pledged to the Arab nation not to relinquish any of these rights or be involved in a separate solution. On this basis, it can be believed that Atherton will not receive any Egyptian concessions or any separate solution, if this is the substance of what he called new Egyptian ideas.

AL-AKHBAR says: What is more important than the resumption of Atherton's mission and staring at the empty hope for peace is for us to begin immediately, even if we are late, the resumption of serious Arab action for a real Arab meeting.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ACHIEVES AGREEMENTS

NC231222Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1208 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] We have just received this flash:

Our correspondent at the Chamber of Deputies, Nabil Barak, reports that the meeting of the parliamentary committee ended at 1350. Former President Camille Sham'un said after the meeting: We have reached an agreement.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said: We have agreed on a formula. This is a positive step.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: We have agreed. This is the biggest victory. Had we agreed 4 years ago we would not have reached the point of collapse. Having agreed, we can now speak in the name of Lebanon.

Former Prime Minister Rashid as-Sulh said: We are profoundly happy because we have reached an agreement.

Chamber speaker al-As'ad will issue a statement on the agreement.

Further Report

NC232010Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Representatives of parliamentary and political blocs achieved a positive step toward solving the crisis at a parliamentary meeting held under the chairmanship of Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The meeting, which lasted 3 hours and 40 minutes, resulted in the signing of a two and one-half page agreement. Photocopies were made and circulated among representatives of participating blocs. The agreement includes the following clauses:

1. To implement all provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

2. To suspend armed Palestinian and non-Palestinian action throughout Lebanese territory.

3. To prohibit any armed presence except that of the legitimate Lebanese forces and the application of Lebanese laws on all Lebanese and others present in Lebanese territory without exception.

4. To rebuild the Lebanese army on sound national bases, enabling it to assume its duties and tasks.

5. To adopt an economic development policy within the framework of a free economic system, which will provide equal opportunities for all citizens and will achieve a sound social justice in all Lebanese areas among all citizens.

6. To request the appropriate authorities to implement these resolutions.

SPEAKER AL-AS'AD ADDRESSES PRESS CONFERENCE

NC231538Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad has said that the agreement that the people's representatives came to at the Chamber of Deputies today is a new and a bright page to which we have turned after the pages of ordeals and divisions. He added that these divisions have been appearing since 1969 and have interacted throughout the recent events.

Speaker al-As'ad said: [begin recording] There are certain broad lines dealing with fateful, basic and vital issues. The future of Lebanon depends upon the evaluation of these issues and the stand adopted on them. We can now say that the new agreement will be a new, bright page for the Lebanon of the future, after which we will close for good the pages of ordeals, and of fear, anxiety and division. These things have been appearing since 1969 and have interacted throughout the recent events which were about to destroy Lebanon in all senses of the word. They almost led to the loss of Lebanon as a homeland, to the loss of Lebanon's values and mankind's principles in the country. We hope that this clear, frank and profound agreement will be a new staging point, which will not only deliver the homeland from its ordeal but will also pave the way for Lebanon to achieve its aspirations and those of its citizens at the level its role qualifies it to perform in this area.

On the details of the agreement, as you know, the parliamentary committee was assigned this task by various deputies, who are representatives of parliamentary blocs. Therefore, I cannot outline all details. However, I stress that an agreement has been reached on current and very sensitive issues--a clear and unanimous agreement on views. This is the stand we have been calling for. We believe such a stand embodies a national unity in ranks and a sound national detente and prevents any plots or attempts against it.

[Question] Mr Speaker, will the agreement put an end to Lebanon's problems?

[Answer] We hope so. Regarding the internal situation, the fears we had of a political, military or psychological explosion and the consequent reaction and counterreaction constituted a grave danger in the country. [end recording]

AL-HUSS DISCUSSES FORMATION OF NEW CABINET

NC211926Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] In a statement which will appear in tomorrow's edition of AL-'USBU' AL-'ARABI magazine, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said that he resigned in order to break the deadlock. He said he hopes that the outgoing cabinet will not act as a caretaker for long, but added that this depends on the consultations which will fix the date for forming a new cabinet.

On the popular question of whether he will head a new cabinet, Prime Minister al-Huss said: I believe that the country's interests dictate an entirely new prime minister and new cabinet members. Personally, I prefer not to head a cabinet again. Prime Minister al-Huss said that he prefers a cabinet of politicians and that had it not been convinced that politicians must participate in the government, the cabinet would have not submitted its resignation.

Regarding detente, Prime Minister al-Huss said he believes that the problem is not one of details: What is required is that all parties must be convinced that it is necessary to reach an inter-Lebanese detente. He added that this depends on our will when we appreciate our responsibilities and face our future.

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL ADDRESSES RALLY IN BEIRUT

NC231820Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A mass rally was held in the municipal palace and square in Zuq Mikha'il at noon today to hear a speech by Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the unified Lebanese forces.

He reviewed the current situation in Lebanon and clearly outlined the reasons for the crisis. Shaykh Bashir dealt with all stages of the crisis at the political, military and security levels. He stressed the need to preserve the state's sovereignty and territorial integrity and affirmed that the Lebanese will not give up a single inch of their territory under any circumstances or for any reasons.

He said that the Lebanese can resolve their differences by meeting to discuss their affairs and determine their future. He urged the people to assume their responsibilities to the homeland in the present critical phase through which Lebanon and the area is passing.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL ON PLOT TO REVIVE WAR ATMOSPHERE

NC221330Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] In his press briefing today, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil spoke about the current consultations on the formation of a new cabinet. He drew attention to the attempts to revive chaos and anxiety. He urged firmness and justice and called on all the Lebanese people to live up to their historic and national responsibilities.

The Phalangist leader said the Lebanese want a government of confrontation capable of dealing with the complex and serious matters in the country. Al-Jumayyil revealed that he has secret information about a plot by certain states and their agents at home and abroad to revive the war atmosphere. The An-Nabatiyah incident, he emphasized, was part of this horrible plot. He added: If anything, this means that the country will remain at the mercy of terrorism and terrorists and foreign schemes. Lebanon's salvation can only be achieved by striking with an iron fist anyone who commits any act against public security and safety. The authorities are now requested to take firm measures and to impose stiff penalties in connection with what is going on. In fact, the opportunity is now at hand to take the kind of decisive steps that will stem the sources of evil in Lebanon. We must all face every eventuality that may mean harm and danger to the country.

Al-Jumayyil also said: The other Lebanese side which appears to be covering up for the Palestinian armed presence or to be responsible for this presence is requested to speak up now and before anyone else. Once this is done openly, then there will be no disagreement or rift.

Answering a question about his visit to Syria mentioned in today's newspapers, Al-Jumayyil said: We need to reclarify some points about all our relations and interests with Syria. The strengthening of Lebanese-Syrian relations on sound foundations is in the interests of both countries.

He concluded: We will always be inspired by President Hafiz al-Asad's historic speech on the situation in Lebanon. The boldness and frankness demonstrated in that speech should serve as a charter for the relations between the two countries.

AFP REPORTS ON PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE RELATIONS

NC231109Y Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, April 23 (AFP)--Guerrillas holding a Palestinian strong point a few kms (miles) from the Al-Qasimiyah Bridge over the Litani River yesterday warned news correspondents they will no longer be allowed into southern Lebanon unless they obtain a pass from the Palestinians.

This latest Palestinian exercise of authority has caused considerable concern to the Lebanese Government, it was learnt here today. Palestinian pretensions in Lebanese territory are likely to be among the first items to be tackled by the new government which Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis is currently attempting to form.

This government, observers say, is likely to include leading political figures representing the Christian and Moslem currents within the country, unlike the government of outgoing Premier Salim al-Huss, considered to be a government of technicians.

In addition to the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, the two major problems facing Lebanese authorities today are to restore security and reconstitute the shattered and dispersed Lebanese Army.

Observers agree, however, that the Palestinian problem appears to be the most difficult. President Sarkis is said to be anxious to reduce the number of armed militiamen and the "Palestinian military presence" in south Lebanon.

The new government is expected to negotiate an agreement on the problem with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

SHAM'UN REJECTS FURTHER COMPROMISE ON PALESTINIANS

LD240821Y Paris LE FIGARO in French 20 Apr 78 p 16 LD

[Jorg Dtocklin interview with Lebanese Christian leader Camille Sham'un: "Another Civil War Is Inevitable Unless the United Nations Settles the Palestinian Problem"--date and place unspecified.]

[Text] Question: Is the alliance which has been formed between the southern Lebanese Christian population and Israel an obstacle to the region's returning to Lebanese sovereignty?

Answer: I do not see why small states should not do the same as the great powers. The USSR and the United States joined forces in World War II to face the Nazi threat. Nobody was shocked by that. In the face of the Palestinian threat the southern Lebanese Christians are now turning to Israel. Israeli aid for southern Lebanese villages is as natural as the gratitude the local population feels to the Jewish state. The Christian population in the south had been surrounded by Palestinian fedayeen. The Christians formed a natural line of defense through the villages of Marj 'Uyun, (Kleia) and Rumaysh. Maj Sa'd Haddad, who organized this line of defense, is one of the most courageous officers in the Lebanese Army. He has been accused of "treachery," but in his place I would have done exactly the same.

Question: Are you in contact with Major Haddad?

Answer: Yes, Major Haddad is responsible to Beirut headquarters and he sends daily reports to them.

Question: Is the "temporary UN force" in southern Lebanon capable of helping to settle the Lebanese-Palestinian conflict?

Answer: Security Council Resolution 425 only dealt with one aspect of the Lebanese problem: the Israeli withdrawal from the south. The United Nations avoided the other aspect, the Palestinian presence. Yet that is by far the most important aspect of the Lebanese question. There are 20,000 armed fedayeen in southern Lebanon and a total of 400,000 Palestinians on Lebanese territory. Since the PLO is not a legal entity, international law will always be powerless to settle its case.

The fedayeen will resume their operations; I am sure of it. What we mean when we say we want the Lebanese question to be "internationalized" is that we want the Security Council to pass a new resolution transforming the UN "blue helmets" into a resolute and well-armed force. Korea provided a precedent for this.

Question: Your enemies accuse you of trying to provoke French military intervention in Lebanon?

Answer: We never asked for French troops to be sent. President Valery Giscard d'Estaing first mentioned this possibility in May 1976. I believe that the Quai d'Orsay was not in favor of this suggestion and that the situation is still the same. What I can tell you is that the average Lebanese finds it difficult to believe that France--we refer to France as our "mother" here--cannot use its moral and diplomatic power more effectively to help Lebanon.

Question: Yasir 'Arafat still regards the 1969 Cairo Agreement on the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon as valid. What is your view?

Answer: We want nothing more to do with the Cairo Agreement. Security Council Resolution 425 made it legally null and void. The Palestinians no longer control the frontier zone which they used as a base for operations against Israel. The Cairo Agreement no longer exists. And it must not be replaced by another shaky compromise. The Lebanese would not accept it. That is why further UN intervention in southern Lebanon is morally imperative. Without it another "civil" war will become inevitable. Unless something is done to restrain fedayeen activity, the Christians will react. They will react because they are better prepared and organized than the other Lebanese communities. If the southern Lebanese Shi'ite Moslems had organized as we, they would have reacted to the Palestinian occupation a long time ago.

Question: Has the attitude of the Syrian leaders, who were your allies during the 1975-1976 war, changed, and if so why?

Answer: I still do not know exactly what the Syrians want. What I do know is that Syrian units belonging to the "Arab deterrent force" have just indiscriminately bombarded the civilian population in the Christian 'Ayn ar-Rummanah district. They used 122mm and 160mm mortars and Soviet Sagger missiles in the center of the town. That is more like an act of vengeance than a police operation. Apparently the Syrians had not forgiven us for the losses we caused them last February when they attacked a Lebanese Army barracks in Al-Fayyadiyah. Syria gradually revealed its real face and perhaps its special ambitions in Lebanon. The Syrians recently threatened to withdraw their troops from Lebanese territory and told us they would leave us to face the Palestinians alone. Surely that is nothing better than blackmail.

VOICE OF LEBANON CITES REPORTED RIFT IN PLO

NC222047Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS reports that a serious rift in the PLO has led to a series of clashes among the various factions of the PLO. The paper adds that 117 Palestinians were detained when they were preparing a plan to attack the UN emergency forces. Reports from the south say that armed Palestinians surrounded the house of Hasan Sharif Badr ad-Din and took him to an unknown place. It has also been reported that other armed Palestinian factions in Sidon have kidnaped Samir al-Fadl, the son of former Deputy Bahij al-Fadl, creating a wave of denunciation and resentment among the inhabitants of the area.

GENERAL SIILASVUO ARRIVES IN BEIRUT FOR TALKS

NC240825Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] General Siilasvuo, commander of the UN peace-keeping forces in the Middle East, arrived in Beirut this morning for a visit during which he will meet with senior Lebanese officials to discuss the status of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon and Israel's withdrawal from the south.

Meets With Butrus

NC241039Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 0930 today National Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus held a working meeting at his office at the National Defense Ministry building. The 1-hour meeting was attended by General Siilasvuo, commander of UN peace-keeping forces in the Middle East; two of General Siilasvuo's aides; Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and Internal Security Forces Director General Staff Col Ahmad al-Haj.

They discussed the partial Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon scheduled to take place on 30 April. They also discussed the possibility of reinforcing the UN forces, measures to further strengthen the Lebanese authority's presence in the south and returning the remaining refugees to their homes in the south.

After the meeting General Siilasvuo left to attend a similar meeting with Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman.

SUPPORT FOR ARMY COMMAND REPORTEDLY RECEIVED

NC221643Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 78 NC

[Text] We have received the following statement from the fifth branch of the army command:

In the wake of the An-Nabatiyah barracks incident, the army command has received many cables of support from various parts of Lebanon. The cables support the measures adopted by the army command against the members of the military who participated in the attack on the barracks. These cables urge severe and immediate action against attempts to harm the unity of the army and the safety of the military institution.

ARMY COMMAND EXPLAINS FUTURE ARMY POLICY

NC211820Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Following the statement issued yesterday by the fifth branch of the army command on the attack on An-Nabatiyah barracks, a detailed supplementary communique was issued by the command today.

The communique says: Effective today, the army command will not permit anyone--regardless of his business, motives or circumstances--to carry out any action that is detrimental to military security and the reputation of the army and its institutions, or that could be considered harmful to military proficiency and honor.

Events in recent years have left some consequences and precedents which the parties concerned are dealing with as part of a general remedy in order to restore normal conditions, and the military authority absolutely will not allow any new phenomena to appear that would impede the process of rebuilding our army.

On the basis of this policy of firmness and determination, in order to resist any attempt to violate military regulations, laws and principles, the command will firmly suppress every negative action. The command is determined to build a national army capable of standing fast and repulsing all attempts and conspiracies.

The army command calls on all military personnel to fully abide by military laws and instructions and to adhere to the principles of strict military discipline because these principles safeguard the homeland's interest, the army's impregnability and the soldier's honor.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS PALESTINIAN FIGHTING

NC211315Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The conflict within the Fatah organization has erupted in the form of clashes in the areas where the forces of Abu 'Ammar and Abu Dawud are stationed.

At a meeting held last night, Fatah's Central Committee discussed the clashes which occurred last night in the southern region between elements of the two factions. The area in question falls between 'Ablun and Wadi al-Jahim. These clashes have reportedly resulted in a number of dead and wounded.

In a letter to the Fatah Central Committee, Abu Iyad requested that those responsible for the attack on the Abu Dawud group and for the arrest of 140 people be brought to task. Yasir 'Arafat issued an order yesterday for the arrest of Naji 'Allush, secretary general of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Federation. The arrest order was not carried out because Abu Iyad opposed this step.

Meanwhile, new Palestinian Fatah offices have been opened in the Al-Hamra, Ar-Rawshah, Al-Manarah, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, At-Tariq al Jadidah and Verdan areas [in Beirut]. These offices have been called the branch offices attached to Operations Room 17. They receive their orders and instructions from Abu Iyad.

PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY SHELL AL-QULAY'AH

NC230706Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 23 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Reporters have sent dispatches from the border region noting that the Palestinians have shelled Al-Qulay'ah in the south from the 'Arnun position. However, no reports have been received from the south on any losses of life. In the south, Israel has sent up a bridge of reinforced concrete over the Shab'a River to connect the area with Mount Hermon.

INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES DENY RUMORS OF INCIDENTS

NC211255Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Internal Security Forces directorate general has denied rumors that there have been kidnaping and sniping incidents in some areas of Beirut. The directorate general affirms that such rumors are unfounded and are aimed only at spreading confusion, alarm and [words indistinct].

AL-ASAD RETURNS HOME FOLLOWING VISIT TO INDIA

JN221657Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife returned to Damascus at 1715 today following a successful and fruitful 5-day visit to India. During the visit, President al-Asad had talks with Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai and high-ranking officials aimed at strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The talks also dealt with international peace and security.

The members of the delegation accompaying the president also returned to Damascus.

President Hafiz al-Asad sent the following cable from the plane to the Indian president:

His Excellency President Neela Sanjeeva Reddy: At the end of our visit to India, I am pleased to express on behalf of my wife, in my own name and on behalf of the members of the Syrian delegation, our sincerest thanks for the hospitality accorded us and the feelings of friendship expressed in New Delhi, Bombay and Agra.

Our talks with the Indian Government were useful and fruitful. I would like to express my satisfaction with the good results of these talks, which strengthened the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. I send my warmest greetings to you, your wife, to Prime Minister Desai and the ministers. I wish you continued health and happiness.

I wish the friendly Indian people further progress and success.

DEFENSE MINISTER ATTENDS MILITARY EXERCISE

JN232014Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the army and the armed forces, one of our armored formations--in cooperation with the air force--conducted a practical exercise with live ammunition, firing deep into fortified mock enemy defenses.

This exercise was witnessed by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and the armed forces and defense minister; Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff; senior officers of the general command of the army and the armed forces; and commanders of military units, colleges and schools.

When General Talas and his companions arrived in the specified place, he shook hands with the senior officers who received him. He then listened to a detailed explanation of this exercise.

The units participating in this exercise managed to accomplish their task with complete success and managed to destroy the mock enemy fortifications, support posts and positions. They also managed to carry the attack to the depth of the enemy, after having destroyed all his vehicles.

At the end of the exercise, General Talas praised the efforts to raise the fighting preparedness of our armed forces so as to be ready to wage war against the Zionist enemy, restore our occupied territories and regain the usurped rights of our people.

ALGERIA

U.S. ENVOY PRESENTS MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE

LD230246Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Mr Missoum Sbih, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, today received the ambassador of the United States to Algiers, at the latter's request. The U.S. ambassador conveyed to Mr Sbih a declaration from his government and handed him a message from President Jimmy Carter for President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI MEETS WITH GUINEAN PRESIDENT TOURE

LD231028Y Tripoli JANA in English 0948 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 23, JANA--At Al-Diafah Palace, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Dr Sekou Toure held last night a closed meeting. The meeting was also attended by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and Guinean prime minister.

Protocol Signed

LD231410Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure left Tripoli at noon today at the end of this visit to the Jamahiriyah which lasted several days. An official send-off ceremony was held for him, led by brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution.

A protocol of an agreement was signed this morning between the Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Guinea which includes a program for cooperation in the economic, political and cultural fields. For Libya it was signed by the agriculture and agrarian reform secretary, Muhammad Ali at-Tabu, and for Guinea by the minister of agriculture.

AL-QADHDHAFI ASKS FROLINAT TO STOP HOSTILITIES

LD232210Y Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan head of state, is asking the FROLINAT to stop current hostilities. This stance is important when one knows that Libya is a supporter of the FROLINAT and that, according to many reports, it is playing an active part in its arming.

AL-QADHDHAFI: SHIPMENT FOR PALESTINIANS EXPLODES

JN222048Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has announced that a plane loaded with Libyan arms bound for the Palestinian revolution was made to explode in the air while passing over Syrian airspace. In an exclusive interview with the magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, Al-Qadhdhafi did not reveal who was responsible for the explosion but said that the plane was not Libyan and that it was loaded with arms to aid the Palestinian revolution during the recent Zionist aggression against Arab Lebanon.

SUDAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON CHAD

LD232250Y Tripoli Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, the Sudanese first vice president, arrived at Tripoli International Airport this evening. Maj Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud was at the head of the official reception.

In a statement to JANA 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim said: I am visiting Tripoli today to meet the brothers in Libya in order to implement the first practical step to realize the national reconciliation in Chad. This step was agreed upon at the meeting in Sabha and Benghazi. He said he would discuss with Libyan officials the current Arab situation and action to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES

LD192316Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The foreign minister of Sao Tome and Principe arrived in Tripoli tonight. He was welcomed by the secretary of communications. The minister confirmed in a statement to JANA that his visit is aimed at the consolidation of relations between the two countries. He is carrying a verbal message from the president of Sao Tome and Principe to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Received by Foreign Minister

LD211530Y Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 21 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 21 April, JANA--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary and the chairman of the current session of the (OAU) Foreign Ministers Council, yesterday received Mr. Leonel Mario d'Alva, the foreign minister of Sao Tome, currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

Both sides reviewed current developments in Sao Tome following the recent incursion by the mercenaries on Sao Tome and Principe. Dr at-Turayki confirmed the vested interests of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in counteracting the mercenaries in supporting the African peoples of Sao Tome and Principe.

MOROCCO

ISTIQLAL PARTY 10TH CONGRESS OPENS IN CASABLANCA

LD220146Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 21 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Rabat, MAP--The 10th Congress of the Istiqlal Party (Moroccan Nationalist Party) began its work in Casablanca today. The congress is being held under the slogan of "Mobilization of Youth for the Attainment of Egalitarianism and the Building of Moslem Arab Maghreb." Twenty [as received] delegations representing the Palestinians, Eritea, the Western Somali Liberation Front, Mauritania, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Guinea, Senegal, Iran, Zaire, the USSR, the GDR, Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Romania have already arrived in Morrocco for the 10th congress.

Congress Ends

LD232326Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The 10th Congress of Istiqlal Party ended in Casablanca this evening. M'hamed Boucetta has been reelected secretary general of the party. A new committee, the presidency committee, has been set up to assist the secretary general.

Members of the National Council were also elected. The congress approved the resolutions and recommendations of the five subcommittees. The secretary general "thanked the delegations for attending; he also asserted Istiqlal Party's adherence to Arab solidarity and its support for the Palestinian cause."

SUDAN

DEFENSE COUNCIL ON ETHIOPIAN MILITARY THREAT

NC211933Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 21 April--the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY [SUNA] reports that the Sudanese National Defense Council met today under President Ja'far Numayri. It discussed the increasing threat of the military concentrations in Ethiopia. These concentrations, which are supported by the Soviet Union, Cuba and South Yemen, threaten to liquidate the Eritrean revolution and people and also pose a threat to the security of Sudan and the entire area.

The council also studied Sudan's firm support for a peaceful solution to the Eritrean question. It stressed that Sudan will continue its efforts and reactivate its peaceful initiative within the OAU framework.

According to SUNA, the Sudanese National Defense Council reaffirmed Sudan's firm opposition to any military actions and its rejection of any foreign presense in the African Continent. The council appealed to the Arab, African and world public and to all peace-loving forces to oppose violence and support peace and stability.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR DAKAR CONFERENCE

LD231946Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr left Khartoum this evening for Dakar leading the Sudanese delegation to the conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization, which is meeting in Dakar during the period 24 to 28 of this month.

The foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, left for Dakar for the conference in the same aircraft. "SUNA has learned that the conference will discuss the problems of the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, problems of Moslem minorities in the Philippines and Cyprus, and the application of Djibouti to join the organization.

"It will also discuss economic, trade and technical cooperation between the Islamic states and also the law of the sea. The conference will review the world economic situation and the preparations for the celebration of the 15th century of the Hegira, in addition to the convening of an Islamic summit conference in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the beginning of the new Hegira year."

TUNISIA

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT LEADER ARRIVES

LD212120Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] Osman Saleh Sabbe, official for the Eritrean Liberation Front, arrived this afternoon in Tunisia for an official visit. In a statement he said that he is touring Arab countries to explain the Eritrean problem and to ask for the support of the Arab countries at the political level.

Holds Talks

LD231733Y Tunis Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Mohamed Sayah, director of the party and minister delegate attached to the prime minister, received this morning at the party house at La Kasbah a delegation of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF], led by Osman Saleh Sabbe, official spokesman of the front. After the meeting Osman Saleh Sabbe said that the talks covered the latest development of the situation in Eritrea and the new situation resulting from foreign intervention and the efforts exerted to halt this intervention. The talks also focused on the need to internationalize the problem of Eritrea by submitting it to the United Nations, the OAU and the conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries due to be held in Dakar.

The ELF official spokesman said that he had met with full understanding on the part of Mohamed Sayah on the character of the problem of Eritrea and with support for the self-determination of the people of Eritrea without any foreign pressure.

Osman Saleh Sabbe also expressed his thanks to Tunisia--its president, government and people--for its fraternal attitude and applauded the effective political role played by Tunisia in the interest of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR UK

LD201812Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Brahim Turki left for London to continue the talks which began in Tunis in March during the visit of the British minister of state for foreign affairs.

LIBYAN-TUNISIAN TRADE TALKS CONTINUE IN TUNIS

LD231037Y Tripoli JANA in English 0950 GMT 23 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tunisia, April 23, JANA--Secretary of Trade Mr Abu Bakr ash-Sharif conferred yesterday with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira at the latter's headquarters in Tunisia.

The meeting was attended by the minister of industry, energy and mines, Mr Rachid Sfar, the representative [of the] Tunisian commissioner in the Jamahiriyah.

Mr ash-Sharif also conferred with the minister of trade, Mr Slaheddine Mbarek, in presence of two countries' representatives. He was pleased to meet with Mr Hedi Nouira and that they had agreed upon the basis of the industrial projects and the stages of accomplishment in compliance with the ambitions of the two brotherly peoples as well as the economic and industrial cooperation which was previously agreed upon at the meeting of the high committee of joint industry in its last session. Mr. ash-Sharif went on to say that he reviewed with the Tunisian minister of trade the consolidation of trade cooperation and that they both decided that the committees concerned with trade development and support should meet regularly.

DAYAN, EBAN DISCUSS ISRAEL'S MIDEAST PEACE POLICY

TA222012Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 22 Apr 78 TA

[Discussion between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and MK Abba Eban moderated by Elimelekh Ram--place and date not given]

[Text] Here is a discussion between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and MK Abba Eban, who was foreign minister when Security Council Resolution 242 was adopted. The discussion is moderated by our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram. [begin videotape]

[Ram] Mr Dayan, are the clarifying guidelines on the subject of Resolution 242, which were published this week--are they a clarification of the subject, or a change in the cabinet's position?

[Dayan] They are a clarification of the subject as we presented it to the U.S. representatives during the prime minister's last visit to Washington, regarding the declaration of principles. I don't want to say that, during the entire lengthy period in which we conducted negotiations with the Egyptians with U.S. mediation, changes have not occurred from time to time. However, the latest clarification has nothing that would constitute a change in what we said to the Americans during the last visit in Washington, but is merely a clarification.

[Ram] What is in it? What deserved to be clarified? What was not clear?

[Dayan] In my opinion what was not sufficiently clear pertains to two subjects. One subject is the acceptance by the Government of Israel of 242 as a basis for negotiations with the neighboring countries, encompassing all the neighboring countries, including Jordan. In the United States we called the issue by its name; that is to say, we mentioned all the countries, including Jordan, because there was an assumption that we were excluding Jordan from the states for which 242 would serve as a basis for negotiations. Secondly, it was not clear, in my opinion, whether the concrete proposals, namely, the administrative administration [as heard] that we propose for Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, conform and coincide with the acceptance of 242 as a basis for the negotiations.

[Ram] Mr Eban, now the position of the cabinet is clear, I presume. Do you accept it?

[Eban] In my opinion this view neither clarifies nor is it useful, and I reject all the moves of the cabinet, as it deviated from the interpretation that for 10 years was accepted by Israel regarding the resolution of the Security Council. The interpretation was always clear: to reach peace, to determine secure and agreed upon boundaries, and a withdrawal by Israel from the territories that will not be included in the secure and recognized borders. There was no need or interest in changing this version. It was a basis for our international status; it did not cause any hindrances between us and the United States; Jewish organizations did not tell us it was difficult to defend this version, and I very much regret that the cabinet made the effort to interpret the document and did not uphold the former Israeli jurisprudence.

[Ram] Mr Eban, did previous Israeli governments ever say that they are in favor of withdrawal from territories in the three sectors?

[Eban] It was clear, especially since August 1970, that this was valid for the Jordanian sector; Moshe Dayan and I in August 1970 formulated a letter to Jordan in which it was said:

We want to conduct negotiations with you, Jordan, on the basis of a withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories that were taken in the last battles, namely with Jordan. Mr Begin said, quite rightly I think, in the Knesset: This decision means that you have agreed to give up many territories to Jordan in the context of the negotiations.

[Ram] According to you, Moshe Dayan shared responsibility for that letter?

[Eban] Yes. I think we worked hard, and we accepted a collective responsibility in the matter.

[Ram] Mr Dayan, has a change taken place in your position since August 1970?

[Dayan] A change took place in the proposals this cabinet is presenting regarding the realization of, or a basis for, a peace agreement on the Jordanian front, namely in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, as against the proposals that were offered in their time and were not accepted by the Arabs. Today there is not a single Arab country, nor the U.S. mediators, that would make even the slightest hint to the effect that there is a basis [for negotiations] in those proposals that are called the Allon plan or for a partition of any kind.

However, I'd like to relate to what Mr Eban said at the beginning, and say that this subject of a withdrawal in the paper that we presented to the Americans now in Washington, in addition to what had been said at first--what I quoted at the beginning of my statement--that Resolution 242 would serve as a basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries: Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. [sentence as heard] So we added and put the following points in writing: A) There will be a withdrawal of Israeli military forces from territories seized in the 1967 conflict. This in addition to the list of the countries; that is to say, we did not evade this issue. What did, in fact, change? The concrete proposal changed. The question is, and I'm asking Mr Eban, does, in your view, the Israeli Government have to declare that also on the Jordanian front, that is to say, in Judaea, Samaria and in the Gaza Strip, there has to be a withdrawal of IDF forces from a part of the territories? Because I think the controversy is actually over this.

[Eban; interrupting] What shouldn't be written, and what is written in that document is that the government rejects the partition option, that it rejects the option of a territorial withdrawal from those territories that we'll decide to give up. The fact that the Arabs rejected the territorial proposal neither adds nor detracts, because the Arabs are also rejecting the present plan of the government. An Israeli plan is evaluated not only by the Arab response to it, but by its general influence on Israel's international status in the world, in the Jewish world and domestically. Hence I think that the idea of a territorial compromise is a very useful concept from the point of view of the ability to gain a certain degree of sympathy in the world, to prevent the erosion which partly took place because of the deviation from the territorial compromise. I don't think that the territorial compromise stands a lesser chance of being accepted by the Arabs than does the plan presented by the cabinet, which has not been accepted by the Arabs either.

[Ram] The question is what is the purpose? You yourself pointed out that the territorial compromise had not been accepted by the Arabs. Is it possible, Mr Dayan, that the administrative autonomy plan be interpreted as a military withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria?

[Dayan] No. I would like gladly to point out that I read this morning in the paper the words of the Labor Party chairman, my friend, Shim'on Peres. He brought news from the Washington administration to the effect that the Americans are now of the opinion that IDF forces will remain in Judaea and Samaria even beyond those 5 years. What then should we be doing in Mr Eban's view?

Should we be the ones who, when the Americans are ready to accept that IDF forces remain in Judaea, Samaria and in the Gaza Strip beyond the 5 years, should we declare that IDF forces will evacuate a part of the territories? What did we say in the administrative autonomy plan? That the military government will be abolished, and that in territories under administrative autonomy rule there will be no military administration. It is also a fact that the claim is untrue that we want political supervision over them. We stressed, however, that this does not imply that the IDF would evacuate Judaea, Samaria or parts of them. As we said, Mr Eban, those parts from which we shall withdraw, the withdrawal from them will be expressed by the IDF withdrawal from them. A different deployment may be possible, a different structuring of forces.

The actual question, however, is: when the Americans, who are clearly well aware of the meaning of Resolution 242, agree that the security needs of the State of Israel--and after all, the basis of secure and recognized boundaries is no less important than the basis of a withdrawal from territories--when the Americans agree that IDF forces should remain in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, is there anything inconsistent in the fact that the cabinet sticks to this statement--and we do adhere to it and distinguish between administrative autonomy in which the military government will be abolished and the fact that the IDF will remain and will be the sole military force deployed and prepared in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Why are the Americans entitled to interpret 242 in this way, but if we do it, it is eyewash?

[Ram] Mr Dayan, permit me an interjection. Why don't you recommend the abolishment of the military government at once?

[Dayan] At this stage we are conducting negotiations. At the moment I would not recommend this, so long as there is a prospect that it will constitute a part of the negotiations, of the give-and-take. I have good reasons to assume that the only plan the U.S. administration believes can be the basis on which an understanding can be built--at least in an interim period--for Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is not the territorial compromise plan or the new plan, [as heard] but actually the administrative autonomy plan, not as it was presented at first, but with certain changes; not as a permanent plan, but for an interim period. I think that the U.S. administration accepts it as a basis for this. I would like to see and hear things on this subject in Washington so long as the negotiations are being carried on between us. This plan is based on the component that military forces of the IDF remain in those places in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip which are necessary for Israel's security. Do we have to stick to the plan which is no longer current today, the political plan which postulated that a certain part would be completely evacuated and handed over to Jordanian sovereignty? This is not the existing plan. There must be a connection, a tie between the practical, concrete plan and the proposal regarding the implementation on the basis of 242, of the principles of 242. I don't think that we are either evading or refuting these principles. We are merely proposing a different solution for those very principles.

[Eban] I'll try to be brief. In my view, this reliance on the United States makes no impression on me, because it is imprecise. The United States does not favor having all our military forces stay in all the territories. Definitely not. I contend that we have to promote the doctrine of evacuating the military from a number of the territories. The United States, in particular, claims in respect to 242, that it is valid for all the sectors. It is the position of the cabinet which constitutes the bone of contention with the United States. This is my position. I and my associates are ready to sign the clause that the United States proposes: 242 and the applicability of 242 to all sectors.

Operatively, what faces us is not a peace treaty, but a declaration of principles that would facilitate a renewal of the negotiating momentum. I have no doubt that we could reach a renewed momentum in the negotiations if we reached an agreement with the United States first, in accordance with the Aswan formula which, as far as the subject of 242 is concerned, was acceptable to us. Hence, it is particularly this position of the cabinet which is one of the bones of contention with the U.S. Government, with U.S. public opinion, and it is also--as I heard--making things very difficult for the Jewish organizations.

[Dayan] ...the Jewish organizations, but I beg to differ on Mr Eban's statement regarding the difference between our position, the position of the cabinet, and the position of the U.S. Government regarding the interpretation of 242 to all the fronts.

[Eban, interrupting] I am in favor of an independent Israeli position, not necessarily Syrian and United States. [as heard]

[Dayan] The decision that was adopted by the Labor Party yesterday--and I was happy about it--says that the effort for peace will be based on 242 on all the fronts, and so forth. What the Americans wanted to add to the declaration of principles were the words: On all the fronts. What we proposed and are proposing--and we presented it to the Americans in writing--is to say that 242 is a basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries--Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. I'd like you to explain to me what is the difference between what you say or what the U.S. Government is saying, that 242--according to the resolution of the Labor Party center yesterday--will serve as a basis for a peace settlement effort, let's say on all the fronts, and what we say, that it will serve as a basis for negotiations--and we enumerate the names of the fronts. Did we omit any front? What is the difference?

[Eban] The difference is that you are adding something that you haven't mentioned here, in that document [sent to Israeli missions abroad] you are adding that you do not desire a partition and that you do not want the principles of withdrawal from a number of territories west of the Jordan River. If you accept this option of withdrawal from several areas west of the Jordan River, then there is no debate between us and we can switch over to another subject. Behind the issue of documents there is a political and humane reality. I actually want the following solution: a peace treaty with Jordan by which the majority of Arabs in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza would be Arabs to all intents and purposes, in their language, culture, sovereignty and [word indistinct] and I think that this can be realized without including them in an imposed political framework together with us. This is the idea which guides my attitude toward 242.

[Ram] When you say their sovereignty you do not mean a Palestinian state?

[Eban] No, a Jordanian-Palestinian sovereignty; namely, that their flag be Arab, Jordanian, rather than Israeli. Since I wish to part with them in the event of peace and maintain only what is necessary for our security, I don't like formulations in which it is stated explicitly--for our ambassadors: Pay attention, we are not in favor of a partition and we take exception to the principles of an IDF withdrawal from any place west of Jordan.

[Dayan] Well, in regard to the negative points, that we are taking exception to a plan of partition or withdrawal--there are three points to which we are taking exception. On one of them, I hope, we share the exception: the Arab demand for a total withdrawal to the previous borders.

[Eban] Correct. I fought against this in the Security Council.

[Dayan] You too sometimes find it necessary [to say] what you do not accept. We also take exception to the U.S. formula of a return to the former borders in Judaea and Samaria, with slight modifications. I suppose that this formula as well is not acceptable to you. We are also taking exception to a peace plan based on a territorial compromise or partition, but--we are saying this, and I also said so in the Knesset as well as in the information guidelines paper. We were trying this for 10 years. You, today, here at this table, cannot propose a line of any kind--a line of partition, of a territorial compromise--with the least prospect of getting Arab approval. Nevertheless, we say--and this is part of the guidelines for the ambassadors--that if the Arabs proposed partition, we would discuss this proposal factually, just as we expect our proposal to be discussed by them. That is to say, that entire great crime of ours is that we are saying--after 10 years in which these [previous] proposals were rejected, and because we do not think this to be a right proposal--that the right proposal, in our view, is the one we proposed--but we do not reject this option [of partition]. I repeat the terms we have been using: We do not reject this option if it should be initiated by the other party. We are saying that if the Arabs propose partition or compromise--if they propose it, we would discuss it. They are not proposing this. What they propose is a withdrawal to the former lines, and what the Americans are saying is a withdrawal with slight modifications. We are obliged to tell our ambassadors whether we accept or reject this. I think and hope that in rejecting these two proposals we happen to be partners.

[Eban] Yes, but the mistake--it is not a crime--the mistake of the cabinet in my view is the unwillingness to sign with the United States the simple words: 242 on all the fronts, when such a signature would at least further an agreement with the United States--an agreement with the United States is not an agreement with Egypt, but the gap between us and the United States is narrower than between us and Egypt and it is a pity that this gap is not being bridged when this is possible.

[Dayan] What is the difference between: 242 will serve as a basis for an agreement on all the fronts, and: 242 will serve as a basis for negotiations between Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and Israel? Only in that we enumerate? But this is what we said.

[Eban] The difference is in the addendum. You make it a point to tell the ambassadors: Pay attention, negotiations with Jordan--yes; 242--yes; partition--no; a withdrawal from territories--no. In this way the addition cancels the entire value of the main thing.

[Dayan] I beg your pardon. A partition, we said, is not our proposal. We have to say what our proposal is. We said, had the other side proposed such a proposal, we would have discussed it.

[Eban] That goes without saying. On everything that is proposed they have to say yes or no.

[Ram] We are approaching the end of this discussion. Mr Dayan, you will most probably depart for the United States next week. People are saying that with your trip the political momentum is actually being renewed. Is, among other things, the reason for your expected invitation to the United States, is it the new formula or the clarifications concerning 242?

[Dayan] No. I don't think so. I think that the negotiations were suspended at the time because in the course of that visit we exhausted everything that could have been achieved in negotiations during those few days during the prime minister's visit in Washington.

The Americans want to continue with the mediation effort in order to reach common formulas. I don't think that the gap between the U.S. positions, the U.S. proposals regarding the declaration of principles, and our own is in any way bottomless. I don't think so. I think that they have advanced a great deal toward us. One could minimize the good tidings that Shim'on [Peres] brought from the United States, but I regard this in a very positive light. They did not propose this when Rabin was in office, that the IDF forces remain also for an extended period, unlimited in time, in Judaea and Samaria. From this point of view it is a fundamental basis [for negotiations]. The reason for the trip to Washington is not new proposals of ours, but a continuing of the negotiations with a view to reaching an agreement with the United States and through them with Egypt, toward a declaration of common principles.

[Ram] Isn't there also a U.S. proposal, in your view?

[Dayan] I really do not know. I'll see when I arrive in Washington.

[Ram] To conclude, Mr Eban, Mr Dayan said he does not think that the gap is great on the subject of a proposal for a declaration of principles, between Israel and the United States. Do you think that the gap between the position of the cabinet and that of the Alinement is not great?

[Eban] In my view, this is not the central question confronting the Jew. Regarding the gap between the United States and Israel, I agree that it is not great. I hope that during his visit, the foreign minister will succeed in bridging this gap, so that both America as well as the Government of Israel come closer to each other. I proposed a few directions in which it is possible to come closer.

[Ram] I thank you very much. Gentlemen, good evening. [end videotape]

KNESSET MEMBERS ARENS, ALLON INTERVIEWED

NC212025Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] In the middle of next week Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will leave for the United States to meet his U.S. counterpart. Dayan will stay in Washington for 2 days and it is expected that his talks with Cyrus Vance will prepare the ground for the Begin-Carter meeting in the U.S. capital a week later.

During recent weeks there has been a freeze in the political process on the Israeli-Egyptian level as well as on the U.S.-Israeli level. There is no doubt that the renewal of what we are accustomed to calling "momentum" depends, to no small extent, on gaining an understanding between Israel and the United States and an understanding on the joint Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles. Moshe Dayan is leaving for the United States in an attempt to renew the momentum of the political negotiations by reaching an understanding of the declaration of principles which will lead to the renewal of the negotiations.

The foreign minister will also be required to clarify Israel's revised stand on UN Resolution 242. The widespread argument which erupted in Israel and abroad on this resolution forced the government to deal with the subject in its latest meeting. Actually, it did so in an attempt to soften the intransigent image it had acquired on this matter.

On what does the argument center? Is there really an argument on the various interpretations of Resolution 242? Or, does the argument pertain to substantive matters such as Israeli territorial concessions?

The Weekly Newsreel has checked the subject with Prof Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Relations and Defense Committee, member of the coalition and Knesset member, and with Yigal Allon, former foreign minister, opposition member and Knesset member. Here is Sara Frankel's report: [Begin recording]

[Frankel] In retrospect, it seems that the arguments over the interpretations of UN Resolution 242 were redundant, harmful and baffling. They were baffling not only in Israel, but particularly outside the country. The impression created as a result of the arguments was that Israel is ruling out Resolution 242. This impression led to an erosion of Israel's image and of the credibility of its information. The Israeli Government announced in the Knesset that it will respect the resolutions of the previous Israeli governments and that it literally accepts Resolution 242. At that time the Israeli Government was not required to announce its interpretations of the resolution. Neither, as a matter of fact, were previous governments required to give such interpretations or details. This is confirmed by former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon.

[Allon] Israel never released any exaggerated details, because these were left to the negotiations. We released a statement which served us for many years. We said that Israel is willing to negotiate with any Arab state on the basis of UN Resolution 242. In addition, in the two disengagement agreements we signed at the time with Egypt and Syria, and in the interim agreement we signed with Egypt in September 1975, it was explicitly stated that these agreements are not peace agreements and that the peace negotiations will continue on the basis of UN Resolution 242. At the time we as well as the Arab side were aware that each side had a different interpretation. However, we deliberately created a situation whereby each side could retain its interpretation, but this did not constitute a prior condition for the negotiations.

[Frankel] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Relations and Defense Committee, Knesset Member Moshe Arens, claims that the argument on the interpretations is not relevant to the subject or to the problems facing the government. According to him, this is a useless argument which will neither add to nor detract from the prospects for conducting negotiations with the Arabs.

[Arens] There are sometimes elements in the U.S. administration who are trying to drive Israel against the wall. One way to carry out this task is--instead of encouraging the Arabs and As-Sadat to conduct direct negotiations on the subjects on which we disagree-is to raise marginal issues which seem to be major ones, such as a declaration of principles and interpretations. These elements then try to elicit Israel's agreement or disagreement on these subjects in an obvious attempt to pressure us into making concessions. We are not obliged to play this game. This is a trap, and I would advise everyone to avoid it.

[Frankel] Then you are saying you believe that it was a mistake to deal with this subject?

[Arens] Yes. I think that if we were asked our opinion we should have said, and we can say today, that the Israeli Government accepts Resolution 242 literally--every word.

[Frankel] When the question about the West Bank is raised?

[Arens] The answer to the question about the West Bank has already been given by the prime minister: Everything is open for negotiations. Let the Jordanians come, let King Husayn come, we will conduct negotiations on the West Bank.

[Frankel] Arens claims that the Israeli Government has presented far-reaching proposals and has shown flexibility during its preliminary talks with Egypt. He says that any charge of Israeli intransigence is devoid of truth. Arens claims that the Labor Party is falling into the U.S. trap by falling in step with the U.S. line in its argument with the Israeli Government. Concerning Resolution 242, at least, an impression can be created in the United States that pressures on Israel will elicit practical results.

[Arens] I would say that if the Arabs reject any proposal we put forward--even if it is a concession--the Americans will exert pressure on Israel. The U.S. pressure is a function of their expectations of the effectiveness of this pressure. I do not imagine that we will experience strong pressure from the U.S. administration if Washington believes that this pressure will have little effect on us.

[Frankel] Tigal Allon does not accept this reasoning. According to him, the correct interpretation is important because it constitutes the basis to the peace negotiations from an international point of view. He believes that the Arabs, the Soviets and even the French have distorted interpretations of Resolution 242. It should therefore be made clear that reference is not made to a total withdrawal but to a withdrawal from each separate front.

[Allon] The interpretation is important because we must refute negative interpretations. However, I do not believe that there is any need to deviate from the interpretation accorded to this resolution by previous governments, including those governments in which Mr Begin was a member before he withdrew from them. Immediately after he assumed the office of prime minister, he rightly stated that peace negotiations will be conducted according to UN Resolution 242. He explained this by saying that he respects the decision made by previous governments. This is a wise attitude. But if he respects the decision made by the former government, he should also respect its interpretation of Resolution 242. Otherwise, the U.S. Government or any other government will say: Since you are withdrawing from the commitments made by previous governments, we can also renounce commitments made by previous administrations. Other governments see, in such interpretations, an attempt to evade the need to take into account the possibility of territorial changes in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

[Frankel] Allon claims that his party is not exerting pressure on the subject of interpretations but is striving to lead the government to withdraw its own interpretation and the aims which lie behind it.

[Allon] When the current Israeli Government attempts to present a counterthesis--"not even one inch" of withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip--this is once again seen as a precondition which will not lead us to the negotiating table. It is necessary to deal with the contents and not with the formulations and interpretations. I have very serious reservations against the government's peace proposal because it is a very poor plan, whether it is accepted or rejected by the other side. If it is rejected by the other side, Israel will find itself in a political noose and will be accused of being intransigent. This is sometimes an unjust accusation, even though I do not agree with the Israeli Government's policy, because the Arab side is displaying greater territorial intransigence than the Israeli Government. But if the proposals of the current Israeli Government are accepted, this will most certainly lead to the Arabization of the State of Israel within a short period, and will sow the seeds for the establishment of a third state--the PLO state which all of us, irrespective of our partisan affiliations, oppose.

[Frankel] The arguments, therefore, are not on the interpretation of Resolution 242, but on the political method. The discussion is between those who are for a territorial compromise and those who support the government's proposals for Judaea and Samaria. Arens claims that the Labor Party, because of an irresponsible attitude, has aided the U.S. attempt to weaken the Israeli Government and its ability to withstand U.S. pressures. Yigal Allon claims that it was not his party that started the arguments. Arens does not deny this, but claims that the arguments should not have departed from the context of an internal political discussion, and that the moment the Americans exploited this against Israel the line should have been drawn. Arens and Allon both agree that the argument on interpretations is not the main point and both, each from his own point of view, understand that the government's attempt to soften the hawkish image it has acquired will not decide the question of whether peace negotiations will take place.

[Arens] I see no relation whatsoever between the prospects for holding the negotiations and the arguments and interpretations of Resolution 242.

[Frankel] In conclusion, it may be said that those in the government who favor a territorial compromise are not currently attaching great importance to the interpretations of Resolution 242 because no Arab alternative to the Israeli peace proposal is under consideration, and because there is no Arab agreement to a territorial compromise. Therefore, there is a possibility of closing the ranks behind the information directives suggested by the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

PERES: LABOR PARTY PEACE PLAN DIFFERS FROM LIKUD

TA232120Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, says that during his stay in the United States he got the impression that the U.S. administration's readiness to favorably view the prime minister's autonomy plan regarding Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, stems from the fact that this plan in fact overlaps the 1967 borders.

Peres rejected the opinion that the argument around Resolution 242 is semantic, saying that the differences of opinion focus on the principle of withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. Without recognizing the principle of withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria there is no chance for a settlement with Egypt, and according to the Foreign Ministry's guidelines it is clear that such a readiness does not exist. He emphasized that any attempt to present the Alinement's position on this matter as identical to that of the government's is nothing but eyewash. The same holds true for the question of settlements in Judaea and Samaria at this time. Shim'on Peres was speaking at a meeting of the Labor Party Bureau.

BRIEFS

ARAB EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DECENTRALIZED--The directorate of the Education Ministry has decided to decentralize the Department for Education and Culture for Arabs and transfer the major activities of the deparment from the central office in Jerusalem to the district offices. Only a headquarters will remain in Jerusalem. The decentralization of the department will bring about more efficiency in the handling of the Arab sector. [Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Apr 78 TA]

KHALATBARI SPEAKS AT LONDON CENTO SESSION

LD201206Y Teheran PARS in English 1019 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpts] London, 19 April, PANA (PARS News Agency)--The 29th session of the CENTO Council of Ministers got underway in London today with regional and international security as one of the major issues for discussion, particularly relating to the African Continent. Foreign ministers from the five member countries were present and the United States secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, just back from his African tour, stressed the need for a prompt and fair transition to independence and majority rule in Rhodesia and Namibia without further bloodshed.

The Iranian foreign minister, Abbas Ali Khalatbari, said: "I would like to thank the government of the United Kingdom and the honourable secretary of state for foreign and commonewealth affairs for the warm hospitality extended to us, and to say how delighted we are to be in London once again. This session affords us the valuable opportunity to meet my distinguished colleagues, His Excellency Mr Okeun, the distinguished foreign minister of Turkey, who is attending the council for the first time, His Excellency Mr. Agha Shahi, the adviser on foreign affairs of Pakistan, and the Honourable Cyrus Vance, the secretary of state of the United States of America.

"I should like to welcome our new secretary general, His Excellency Mr. Kamuran Gurun, who brings to this organisation many years of valuable experience and pay tribute to the former secretary general, His Excellency Mr Bayulken, for his outstanding services to the cause of our alliance and wish them both great success in their new undertakings.

"The annual meeting of the council affords us a useful opportunity to review together matters of vital interest to our alliance which has just celebrated its twenty-fifth year of existence. It is gratifying to observe that during this time, despite innumerable changes in the international arena, the alliance has positively responded to the changing conditions and continues its responsibilities effectively in the maintenance of peace and security in our region. At the same time the alliance has made considerable progress in promoting economic and technical cooperation in member countries.

"Since our last session in Teheran, there have been many disturbing developments in the international situation, undermining the security and independence of nations in different parts of the world. In the Middle East, in spite of the encouraging peace initiatives, there are still no definite signs of positive progress ensuring a successful outcome of the negotiations.

"In Africa there are developments which are a cause for great concern. Direct military intervention or war by proxy pose new threats to the peace and security of all nations in this continent. My government's position concerning these developments has been amply clarified and I do not wish to take up the time of the council in repeating it. We are of the firm view that existing differences should be resolved through negotiations and peaceful means.

"The war and conflict in Africa indicated clearly how quickly peace in our region is disrupted by interference from outside. It has been [emphasized], and indeed it is for this reason that my government has emphasized in the past, that the maintenace of peace and security in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean should be the prime responsibility of the littoral states, and that these areas should remain free from great power rivalry and military escalation.

"However, threats to peace and security in our region continue to exist in various forms. They manifest themselves in (?direct and indirect) subversive actions. We are determined to meet these threats, in whatever form that we find necessary. In fact, as long as these conditions continue we are (?completely) determined to provide for our security and remain vigilant.

"General and complete disarmament remains an ideal of vital importance to international communities and for peace, but until the achievement of such an objective, we must rely on national strength and international cooperation for security. There is no doubt that CENTO has made positive contributions towards this goal and my government continues to attach importance to the objectives of our collective defence alliance and will contribute its full share to the realisation of its objectives."

Returns to Teheran

LD202033Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Abbas Ali Khalatbari returned to Teheran tonight after taking part in the CENTO ministerial conference in London. On his return to Teheran, Mr Kalatbari told newsmen: This year's ministerial conference was very interesting and talks were held in a friendly atmosphere which was full of understanding. Compared with last year's conference, it was conducted at a higher level, as witnessed by the fact that, rather than send its ambassador to the conference, Pakistan sent the head of state's adviser on foreign affairs to lead a high-ranking delegation.

The foreign minister added: In the course of separate talks with the CENTO foreign ministers, bilateral relations were reviewed; we have good and sincere relations with all these countries.

Referring to the situation in the region, Mr Khalatbari said: Iran has important interests in the region, and whatever happens to our neighbors will naturally affect Iran.

IRANIAN-SPANISH TRADE AGREEMENT REPORTED

LD221835Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] At the end of the talks held between the Spanish economic delegation led by that country's deputy trade minister and our country's economic officials, an agreement was signed in Teheran this afternoon. On the basis of this agreement, the two countries will make the efforts necessary for the further expansion of their trade exchange and economic cooperation, and Iran's nonoil exports, especially of manufactured and semi-manufactured Iranian goods, will expand. Against this, Spain will export air-conditioners, boilers, glass and metal equipment to Iran.

The two sides will also study the possibilities of cooperation in agriculture, and Spain will make available to Iran its expertise on the cultivation of olives and grapes. Regarding industry and technology, the two countries have also begun studies concerning the possibility of constructing and expanding ports and brick factories in Iran.

In order to facilitate the expansion of trade and accelerate the implementation of the projects that they have under study, Iran and Spain have set up a permanent committee composed of the representatives of the chambers of trade, industries and mines, and the relevant ministries and organizations which will hold its first session in late May-early June in Teheran.

At the end of Iranian-Spanish talks, our economic correspondent, Hasan Hakim-Hashemi, interviewed the deputy commerce minister: [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Mo'adi, today you signed the Iranian-Spanish trade agreement. Could you comment on this agreement and the work of the three committees which were set up during the talks?

[Answer] Concerning trade, since Iran's exports to Spain have not been as great as we would have liked, we have tried in the agreement which we have just signed--it is not in fact an agreement but a proces-verbal--in the proces-verbal which we signed, to expand the export of Iran's industrial and semi-industrial goods to Spain on a proportionate basis. They promised to cooperate with Iran in this respect. With regard to the goods which are currently in short supply in Iran, they also promised to supply us with goods and to meet our requirements insofar as possible. Concerning industry and other areas, it was also decided that the Iranian and Spanish investors should discuss the relevant issues through the committee that the two countries' chambers of commerce, industries and mines will set up at the project level so that they may reach overall results.

Another project that, in our view, is very beneficial for the two countries' trade concerns the joint shipping company. Talks were held in this respect, and a delegation is expected to go to Spain to conclude the talks on this company.

FRG'S PRESIDENT SCHEEL BEGINS TALKS WITH SHAH IN TEHERAN

ID2210347 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 22 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The first round of talks between the leaders of Iran and the FRG took place in Niyavaran Palace this morning. The shahanshah aryamehr welcomed his illustrious guest, His Excellency Walter Scheel, at the entrance of the palace. At 1030 this morning the two countries' leaders spoke for a few minutes and then negotiations took place in the exalted presence of the shahanshah aryamehr and His Excellency Walter Scheel and in the presence of a few Iranian officials and those accompanying the president of the FRG.

The following people had the honor of taking part in these talks on behalf of Iran: the ministers of foreign affairs, economic affairs and finance, industries and mines, the shahanshah aryamehr's ambassador to Bonn, and the political director-general for Europe and America. On behalf of the FRG there were: the minister of research and technology, the director of the presidential personal office, the deputy minister of economy, the deputy foreign minister, the German ambassador at the imperial court, and a few other people who accompanied His Excellency Walter Scheel.

His Excellency Walter Scheel, the president of the FRG, visited the mausoleum of His Imperial Majesty Reza Shah the Great and paid a floral tribute to the architect of modern Iran.

BRIEFS

NEW FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL--Foreign Minister Khalatbari was received in audience by the shah this morning at Niyavaran Palace. In the course of the meeting, the foreign minister introduced to the shah the ministry's new administrative under secretary, Mr Parviz Khansari. The new under secretary will also be responsible for financial and consular affairs of the foreign ministry. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 10 Apr 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

ZIA ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FOR 3 JUNE

BK211733Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The presidential elections will be held on the 3d of June on the basis of adult franchise. The election will be free and fair. This was announced by President Ziaur Rahman while addressing the nation over radio and television this evening. He said the decision to hold the presidential elections prior to the general election was taken on the basis of the general consensus that it will facilitate the establishment of a stable government and pave the way for democracy.

He said the constitution will be amended to provide for the third general elections, a sovereign parliament and an independent judiciary.

The president said that necessary amendments would also be made in the constitution to enable the president to discharge his responsibilities as chief executive of the government. A council of ministers will assist the president, with the prime minister discharging separate responsibility.

He also reiterated that in fulfillment of the commitment, instructions have also been given to the election commission to take necessary measures to hold the general elections on the basis of adult franchise by December next.

Referring to the system of the government suited to the country, the president said wide-ranging discussions had been held at different levels at different times, and various political leaders have expressed themselves freely on this issue.

The president said both the presidential and the parliamentary forms are undoubtedly guided by democratic principles, and in both cases his government is fully accountable to the people for its actions.

He, however, said there are variations in the democratic process. It is in the light of the country's own experience, peculiar needs and, especially, in the interest of stability and development requirements that it frame its constitution pattern. But what is important is to deliberate on this issue freely, keeping the national interest supreme.

Underlining the need for open political activities in the country to insure free and fair elections, the president also announced that restrictions in this regard will be issued by phases with effect from Monday next.

The president, however, cautioned the people against the misuse of this privilege and urged them to be ever vigilant so that no one can further his personal interest. He said all of us will have to be alert to see that miscreants and antipeople elements cannot raise their ugly head to create chaos, thus impeding the process of democracy. He stressed the need for national unity to make a democratic order. He expressed his confidence that patriotic and democratic-minded parties will come forward to consolidate national sovereignty and build strong resistance to destructive forces. In this context, President Zia said that many have responded to the call for the proposed political front to pave the way for democracy, thus reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people.

President Zia also recounted some of the measures taken to insure the uninterupted pace of development activities in the country. He said he has given clear-cut directives that the various development projects undertaken by the government will have to be implemented within the time schedule. The work proposed to be completed this year will have to be completed this year.

About the country's foreign policy, the president reiterated that our present foreign policy has helped further consolidate our relations with all countries of the world, particularly the Moslem countries. Bangladesh has attained a place of honor in the comity of nations.

In concluding, the president said a severe test lies ahead of the nation. He hoped that concerted efforts by all of us will help the smooth conduction of both the presidential and general elections and thus set a glorious tradition. He invoked the mercy of the Almighty Allah in this direction.

BAN ON POLITICAL MEETINGS TO BE LIFTED BY 1 MAY

BK220916Y Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0830 GMT 22 Apr 78 BK

[Text] A pressnote issued by the Home Ministry today said that, in order to accelerate the process of democracy in the country and to provide opportunities to the political parties to carry on their activities without any restriction, the government has decided to lift the ban on holding political meetings beginning 1 May. Other political activities may be resumed starting next (?Monday).

The pressnote added that the ban on processions will, however, continue, except for certain special purposes, including religious rites, marriage and death.

ELECTION COMMISSION RELEASES NOMINATION PROCEDURES

BK221734Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh Election Commission has announced the date of submission of nomination papers and the procedure for election to the office of the president to be held on the 3d of June this year.

The chief election commissioner, Mr Justice A.K.M. Narul Islam announced in Dacca tonight that the nomination papers shall be (?filed) on the 2d of next month. The papers shall be scrutinized on the following day while the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers will be the 7th of next month.

The secretary of the Election Commission has been appointed the returning officer, and all the subdivisional officers in the country will act as assistant returning officers for the election.

The nomination papers shall have to be given to the returning officers. The candidate will attach a declaration with the nomination paper signifying his [words indistinct] to the nomination. He will also declare that he is not subjected to any disqualification (?if he elected) as president.

The chief election commissioner also announced that the election will be decided by a secret ballot, which is a precondition to free, fair and impartial election.

Calling for the all-out help and cooperation of the people, he said the Election Commission has taken necessary steps for successful completion of this vital and gigantic task.

INDIA

JOINT INDIAN-SYRIAN STATEMENT ISSUED ON AL-ASAD'S VISIT

JN222058Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Apr 78 JN

[Text of joint statement issued 22 April in Damascus and New Delhi on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's 18-22 April official visit to India]

[Text] In response to an invitation from President of the Republic of India Neela Sanjeeva Reddy, President of the Syrian Arab Republic Hafiz al-Asad, accompanied by his wife, paid an official visit from 18 to 22 April 1978. President Hafiz al-Asad, his wife and the accompanying delegation were accorded a warm welcome by the Indian Goverrment and people.

During the president's stay in Delhi, he visited the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi and laid a wreath. The governor and people of Delhi held a popular reception in honor of the president and his accompanying delegation in the historic castle of Al-Hamra.

The fraternal welcome given to the president and his accompanying delegation was an expression of the traditional ties linking the two countries and of the sincere desire of the two governments and people to enrich and strengthen cooperation in all fields.

Participating in the talks for the Syrian side were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Higher Education Minister Shakir al-Fahham, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Muham d al-'Imadi, political adviser to the president Dr Adib ad-Dawudi, Syrian Ambassador to India 'Abdallah Shukri al-Khani, Assistant Minister of Oil and Natural Resources Eng Nadir Nabulusi, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry (?Rassan) 'Allush and official in the Office of Economic Studies at the presidential office Dr Bashshar Kbarah. Participating in the talks for the Indian side were Home Affairs Minister Charan Singh, Defense Minister Jagjivan Ram; Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation Mohan Dharia; Industries Minister George Fernandes; Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Purushottam Kaushik; Minister of Steel and Mines Biju Patnaik; Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister V. Shankar; Foreign Secretary J.B. Mehta; Commerce Secretary R.D. Thapar; Secretary of the Department of Industrial Development S.S. Marathe; Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs R. Bhandari; Indian Ambassador to Syria A.P. Venkateswarn; and Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs R.N. Malhotra.

In an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding, President of the Syrian Arab Republic Hafiz al-Asad and Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai held talks on relations between the two countries and various international issues, including the current developments in the Middle East and the [Indian] peninsula.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries in the political, economic, trade, scientific and cultural fields. They stressed their determination to make every effort to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in other fields.

The president of the Syrian Arab Republic successively received Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation Mohan Dharia and Minister of Steel and Mines Biju Patanaik.

President al-Asad briefed Prime Minister Morarji Desai on the achievements attained by Syria in all development fields despite the difficult circumstances resulting from the continuation of the Israeli aggression. This aggression requires concentration on strengthening the defensive force and steadfastness in the Syrian Arab Republic.

President al-Asad reviewed Syrian activities and initiatives on the Arab and international levels, particularly within the framework of the nonalined movement countries, in order to strengthen solidarity among the forces supporting peace and justice in the Middle East and the world and to consolidate the front of struggle against colonialism, racism and Zionism.

The Indian prime minister reviewed the initiatives taken this year to restore normal relations among the countries of the peninsula, reflecting India's genuine desire to find an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation in the area.

The two sides stressed the continued effectiveness of the nonalined policy. They expressed their satisfaction with the development of its effective role, particularly since the 1976 Colombo Summit Conference and the meetings of the Coordination Office held at the ministerial level in New Delhi in 1977.

The two sides feel confident that the coming meeting of the Coordination Office to be held in Kabul will insure another valuable opportunity to review the situation and to support cooperation among the nonalined countries in various fields. Proceeding from this, the two sides emphasized the need to maintain the unity and cohesion of the nonalined movement so that it may continue to play its constructive role for the establishment of peace and stability in the world.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of economic and technical cooperation among the nonalined countries in the common interest of these countries.

The two sides discussed the current situation in the Middle East. They agreed that Israel's continued intransigence, constant violation of the UN Charter, continued occupation of the Arab territory and refusal to carry out the UN resolutions constitute a matter of deep concern for the two sides. Israel's latest blatant aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty further aggravated the dangerous situation, which the two sides viewed with extreme anxiety and concern. This aggression has resulted in the deaths of a large number of innocent victims and in increasing the danger of a major eruption in the area.

The two sides stressed that a just and permanent peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without complete Israeli withdrawal from all the territory occupied in 1967 and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to return to their homeland, to determine their future and to establish their independent state. The two sides also stressed their recognition of the role of the PLO, representative of the Palestinian people, in reaching these aims.

The two leaders reasserted their support for complete disarmament, particularly nuclear arms disarmament, under effective international supervision. The two sides also stressed the need for an immediate halt to all nuclear tests and for gradual reduction of nuclear arms with the aim of final disposal of such arms.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction that the convening of the coming special UN General Assembly session on disarmament comes as a result of the initiative of the nonalined countries adopted by the Colombo Summit Conference.

The two sides expressed their deep concern over the aggravating situation in southern Africa as a result of the racial discrimination and the apartheid policy pursued by the two minority regimes in that area. They pledged to give their full support to the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their just struggle against the forces of racism, colonialism and monopoly. The two leaders lauded the heroic struggle waged by the people of Namibia under the leader of the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, against the illegal occupation of their country by the South Africa regime. They expressed the hope that the coming session of the UN General Assembly devoted to discussing the Namibia issue will result in endorsing a timetable committed to achieving complete independence and territorial integrity for Namibia.

The two sides stressed the urgent need for the establishment of a new international economic order based on international cooperation, equality and justice.

The two leaders discussed the situation in the Indian Ocean. They stressed their support for measures to make this area a zone of peace free from tension and rivalry.

The president of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Indian prime minister stressed their determination to take all measures to strengthen bonds between the two countries. They stressed their satisfaction with the conclusion of a number of agreements in the scientific, economic, cultural and technical fields in recent months. They expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the economic development plans in the two countries give an excellent opportunity to carry out these agreements, particularly in the fields of phosphate extraction, development of railways, textile industries, advisory services, technical assistance, establishment of industrial centers and housing complexes and in the participation of industrial projects and the common marketing of these products.

The two leaders attended the signing ceremony of the Syrian-Indian Trade Agreement on 20 April 1978.

The Indian Government agreed to provide the technical expertise needed by the Syrian Arab Republic. This cooperation will begin with providing Syria with a number of experts in medical affairs.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing periodic contacts and the exchange of visits on all levels between the two countries.

The president of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed his appreciation and thanks for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded him and his wife and the delegation accompanying him by the Indian Government and people. The Syrian president extended an invitation to the Indian president and prime minister to visit the Syrian Arab Republic. They accepted the invitation with pleasure and thanks.

CPI-M LEADER DEMANDS PROBE INTO HIMALAYAN NUCLEAR DEVICE

BK2409377Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Mr B.T. Ranadive, a member of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo, has demanded a thorough probe into the planting of an American atomic device on Nanda Devi peak 12 years ago. Speaking at a news conference in Kanpur, he said those found responsible for it should be tried for treason. He said the installation of such a device by a foreign power amounted to surrender of the country's sovereignty.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). The annual subscription fee for the paper version within the United States, Canada, and Mexico is $150 for any one volume and $50 for each additional volume. This includes occasional supplements. In microfiche the fee is $100 for any one volume, $125 for two volumes, $150 for three, $200 for four, $250 for five, $300 for six, $350 for seven, and $400 for all eight volumes. Foreign subscriptions outside North America are available from appointed foreign dealers or from NTIS. For information contact NTIS. U.S. government officials may obtain subscriptions at no charge directly from FBIS. Phone 527-2368 (area code 703) or write P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The volumes are: I - People's Republic of China; II - Eastern Europe; III - Soviet Union; IV - Asia & Pacific; V - Middle East & North Africa; VI - Latin America; VII - Western Europe; VIII - Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

NTIS

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151